

Portable Fire Extinguishers

Fighting Small Fires

Should You Fight the Fire?

Before you begin to fight a small fire:

Make sure everyone has left, or is leaving, the building.

Make sure the fire department has been called.

Be certain that the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and that it is not spreading beyond the immediate area.

Be sure that your back is to a safe and unobstructed exit to which the fire will not spread.

Be sure that your extinguisher is the proper size and type for the fire at hand and that you know how to use it.

It is reckless to fight a fire with an extinguisher in any other circumstances. Instead, leave immediately, close off the area, and leave the fire for the fire department.

Extinguishers Have Their Limits

When used properly, a portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives.

Portable extinguishers, however, are not designed to fight a large or spreading fire. Even against small fires, they are useful only under certain conditions.

The extinguisher must be rated for the type of fire you are fighting.

The extinguisher must be large enough to put out the fire. Most portable extinguishers discharge completely in as few as eight seconds.

The extinguisher must be within easy reach and in working order, fully charged.

The operator must know how to use the extinguisher. Read the instructions when you buy it. There is no time to read directions during an emergency.

The operator must be strong enough to lift and operate the extinguisher.

Your Extinguisher Must Fit the Fire

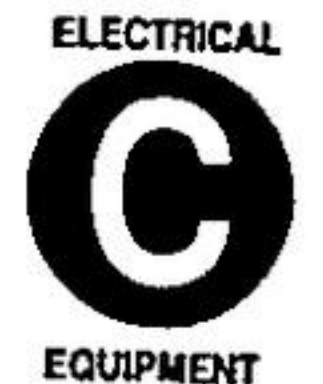
Type A: Ordinary combustibles, such as wood, cloth, paper, rubber, and many plastics.



Type B: Flammable liquids, such as gasoline, oil, grease, tar, oil-based paint, lacquer, and flammable gas.



Type C: Energized electrical equipment, including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers, machinery, and appliances.



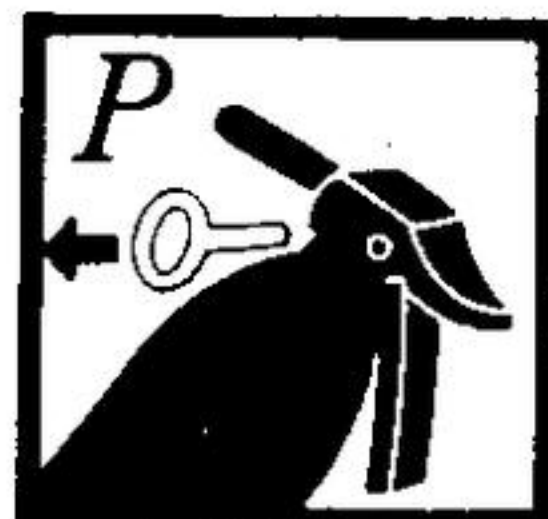
There are also multipurpose or "combination" portable fire extinguishers on the market — the ABC type.

Be sure you are fighting a fire with the proper extinguisher. It is particularly dangerous to use water or a Type A extinguisher on a grease or electrical fire.

If You Do Fight the Fire, Remember the Word PASS

PULL

the pin: Some extinguishers require releasing a lock latch, pressing a puncture lever, or taking another first step.



AIM

low: Point the extinguisher nozzle (or its horn or hose) at the base of the fire.



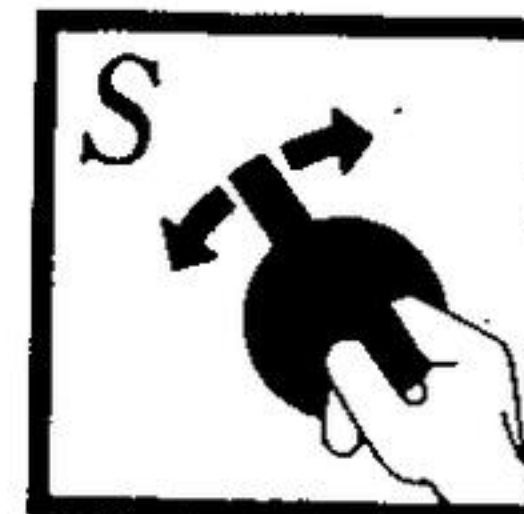
SQUEEZE

the handle: This releases the extinguishing agent.



SWEEP

from side to side: Keep the extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire and sweep back and forth until it appears to be out. Watch the fire area. If fire breaks out again, repeat the process.



**HALTON HILLS
FIRE DEPT.**

**DEDICATED TO YOUR
PROTECTION**



For more information or assistance with fire safety in your home or business, Please contact the Fire Prevention Division of the Halton Hills Fire Dept. at 877-1133