

INTRODUCTION TO FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

A fire sprinkler contractor will generally have a fire extinguisher that is installed in a company supplied truck located at the jobsite. Fire sprinkler contractors may also rely on extinguishers provided by the general contractor, unless they are doing “hot work.” Hot work includes soldering, silver soldering, welding, or oxy-acetylene torch cutting but would include any similar process that produces a spark or fire that could start a fire. In any situation where fire sprinkler contractors are doing “hot work,” they are generally required to provide extinguishers or other appropriate fire protection.



Since fire extinguishers are our first line of defense in the event of fire:

- Be sure to conduct regular and thorough inspections of your fire extinguishers.
- Fire extinguishers must be kept clean to be clearly visible.
- Fire extinguishers must be kept easily accessible.
- Correct any deficiencies, such as depleted pressure or blocked nozzles.

The following is a brief description of the classifications of the most common types of fires, and the recommended extinguisher to be used on each:

CLASS "A" FIRES:

Ordinary combustibles such as paper, rags, wood, or cardboard.

Recommended extinguishers: pump type water cans or pressurized extinguishers. Only use hose lines if you have specific training to do so. Multi-purpose dry chemical can also be used.

CLASS "B" FIRES:

Flammable liquids, oils and greases: Fires that require a smothering effect for extinguishment.

Recommended extinguishers: Carbon Dioxide, Dry Chemical, and Foam.

CLASS "C" FIRES: Energized electrical equipment. Fires that require a non-conducting, extinguishing, agent. Recommended extinguishers: Carbon Dioxide and Dry Chemical. Electrical equipment that is not energized is likely a class A fire.

The information and suggestions contained in this bulletin were developed from sources believed to be reliable. However, AFSA accepts no legal responsibility for the correctness or completeness of this material or its application to specific factual situations. This information is for informational purposes and should not be considered legal advice.

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If you are able to use a fire extinguisher, remember the **PASS** process:

Pull the pin,

Aim at the base of the fire,

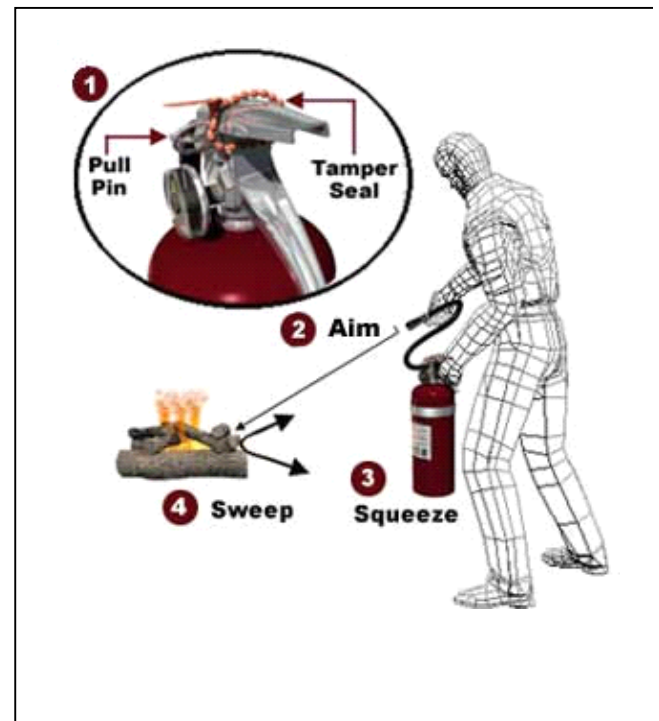
Squeeze the handle, and

Sweep back and forth as you approach the fire until it is extinguished.

If the fire is outside, approach the fire with the wind at your back. The smoke will blow away from you.

If the fire is inside, approach the fire with the door or exit path at your back. Don't let the fire get between you and your means of escape.

Fire extinguishers are useful tools, but they are limited by the amount of the extinguishing agent they carry. Be sure that the fire department has been called, before attempting to fight a fire with an extinguisher.



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