Common Fire Extinguishers

Left: Class ABC Dry Chemical Extinguisher

Above: Class K Extinguisher. This is a wet chemical based extinguisher common in restaurant kitchens. It is designed for fires involving grease and oils from cooking operations.

Learn More About Safety:

www.urbandale.org - UFD website

www.nfpa.org - National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

www.homefiresprinkler.org - Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition

www.ready.gov - FEMA Emergency Preparedness site


Would you be able to use one in the event of a fire?

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Extinguishers are vital as the first line of defense to use during a small fire. There are several classifications of fire extinguishers depending on the type and size of the building in which they may be needed. Below is a list of the classifications, which can be found on the side of the extinguisher:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASSIFICATION</th>
<th>SYMBOL</th>
<th>PICTURE SYMBOL</th>
<th>FOR USE ON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary Combustibles such as trash, paper, wood and textiles</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>![A Symbol]</td>
<td>Ordinary Combustibles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flammable Liquids</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>![B Symbol]</td>
<td>Flammable Liquids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Equipment</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>![C Symbol]</td>
<td>Electrical Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combustible Metal</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>![D Symbol]</td>
<td>Combustible Metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combustible Cooking Media</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>![K Symbol]</td>
<td>Combustible Cooking Media</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To operate an extinguisher, remember the word **PASS**:

**P**—“pull” the pin at the top of the extinguisher that keeps the handle from being depressed.

**A**—“aim” the nozzle or outlet towards the base of the fire.

**S**—“squeeze” the handle to discharge the extinguishing agent. Stay 6 feet away from the fire and slowly move closer if the extinguishing agent is not reaching the fire.

**S**—“sweep” the nozzle back and forth at the base of the fire. Make sure the fire is out. Avoid “plunging” the agent into flammable liquids as splashing may spread the fire.

When To Use A Fire Extinguisher

- Make sure you are trained on how to properly deploy a fire extinguisher. During a fire is not the time to learn!
- Make sure you know what is burning.
- Make sure the fire is not spreading quickly.
- Make sure heat and smoke have not filled the area/room.
- Make sure you have a clear path of escape.
- Make sure someone has called 9-1-1.

**P.A.S.S. Method**

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Helpful Safety Tips and Information:

- Extinguishers in the home should be rated for ABC fires and be replaced every 7 years.
- Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.
- Dry chemical extinguishers come in a variety of sizes and are appropriate for use in a combination of Class A, B, and C fires. They are filled with foam or powder and are pressurized with nitrogen.
- Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms. Install fire sprinklers if you are building a new home!