




# How and when to use a fire extinguisher

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## Fire Extinguisher

-  ▪ **Class A** - Wood, paper, cloth, trash
-  ▪ **Class B** - Flammable liquids, oil, gas, grease
-  ▪ **Class C** - Electrical, energized electrical equipment
  
- **Class D** - Combustible metals

Fire extinguishers are divided into four categories, based on the types of fires:

**Class A** extinguishers are for ordinary combustible material such as wood, paper, cloth, trash and most plastics.

**Class B** extinguishers are for flammable or combustible material including oil, gas and grease.

**Class C** extinguishers are for electrical fires and the extinguishing agent is non-conductive.

**Class D** extinguishers are for chemical fires including combustible metals such as magnesium, potassium and sodium.

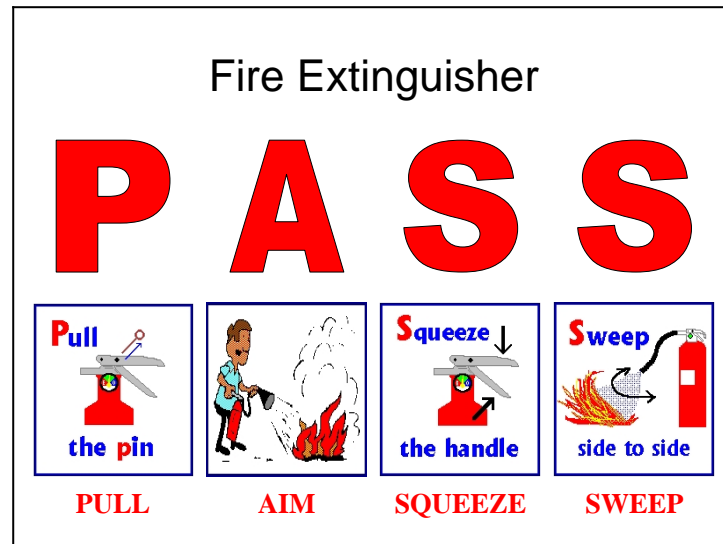
Fire extinguishers, using different extinguishing elements, are capable of extinguishing combinations of these fire classes:

**Water** – only in Class A fires

**Dry Chemical** – Class A, B, & C fires

- Sodium Bicarbonate
- Monoammonium phosphate

## Carbon Dioxide – Class B and C fires



### To use a fire extinguisher, remember PASS:

**P – PULL THE PIN** at the top of the extinguisher. The pin releases a locking mechanism and will allow you to discharge the extinguisher

**A – AIM** at the base of the fire and not at the flames. You must extinguish the fuel to the fire.

**S – SQUEEZE** the lever. This will release the extinguishing agent in the extinguisher. If the handle is released, the discharge will stop.

**S – SWEEP** from side to side. Using a sweeping motion, move the fire extinguisher back and forth until the fire is completely out.

**Before deciding to fight a fire, be certain that:**

- The fire is small and not spreading
- You have the proper fire extinguisher
- The fire will not block your exit (keep the exit at your back)

**NEVER FIGHT A FIRE IF:**

- The fire is spreading rapidly
- You don't know what is burning
- You don't have the proper fire extinguisher
- There is too much smoke or you are at risk of inhaling smoke



**REMEMBER**

Operate the extinguisher from a safe distance. A typical fire extinguisher lasts for about 10 seconds. Once the fire is out, don't walk away. Watch the area for a few minutes in case it re-ignites.