

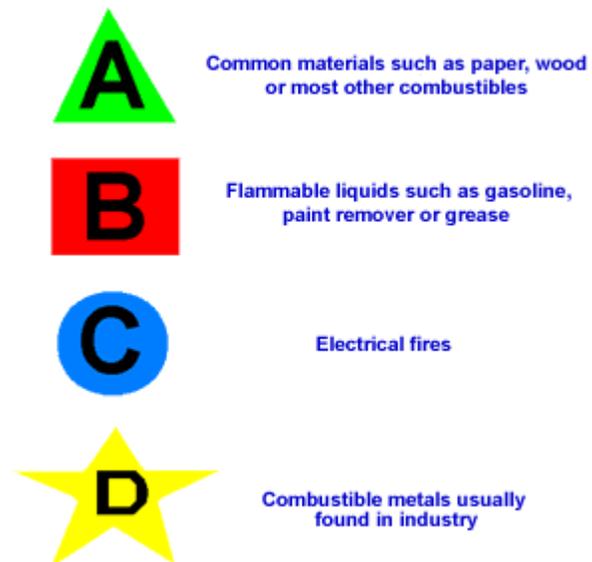
Proper Use of a Portable Fire Extinguisher



All fires can be very dangerous and life-threatening. Your safety should always be your primary concern when attempting to fight a fire. Always notify the Fire Department and begin evacuations for other people in the area

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

The fire is small and not spreading. A fire can double in size within two or three minutes.



You have the proper fire extinguisher for what is burning.

The fire won't block your exit if you can't control it. A good way to ensure this is to keep the exit at your back.

Inspect extinguishers once a month for dents, leaks or other signs of damage. Assure the pressure is at the recommended level. On extinguishers equipped with a gauge, the needle should be in the green zone - not too high and not too low.

Know how to use your fire extinguisher. Know how to use it prior to needing it! There's not enough time to read instructions when a fire occurs.

How to Fight a Fire Safely:

Always stand with an exit at your back.

Remember and use the PASS acronym:

Pull the Pin at the top of the extinguisher. The pin releases a locking mechanism and will allow you to discharge the extinguisher.

Aim at the base of the fire, not the flames. This is important - in order to put out the fire, you must extinguish the fuel.

Squeeze the lever slowly. This will release the extinguishing agent in the extinguisher. If the handle is released, the discharge will stop.

Sweep from side to side. Using a sweeping motion, move the fire extinguisher back and forth until the fire is completely out. Operate the extinguisher from a safe distance, several feet away, and then move towards the fire once it starts to diminish. Be sure to read the instructions on your fire extinguisher - different fire extinguishers recommend operating them from different distances. Remember: Aim at the base of the fire, not at the flames!!!!

If possible, use a "buddy system" to have someone back you up or call for help if something goes wrong.

Be sure to watch the area for a while to ensure it doesn't re-ignite.

Never Fight A Fire If:

The fire is spreading rapidly. Only use a fire extinguisher when the fire is in its early stages. If the fire is already spreading quickly, evacuate and call the fire department.

You don't know what is burning. Unless you know what is burning, you won't know what type of fire extinguisher to use. Even if you have an ABC extinguisher, there could be something that will explode or produce highly toxic smoke.

You don't have the proper fire extinguisher. The wrong type of extinguisher can be dangerous or life-threatening. Particularly when using a water based extinguisher on an electrical or Class C fire.

There is too much smoke or you are at risk of inhaling smoke. Seven out of ten fire-related deaths occur from breathing poisonous gases produced by the fire.