



Remember the basics of using extinguishers.

Pull

the safety pin at the top of the extinguisher.

Aim

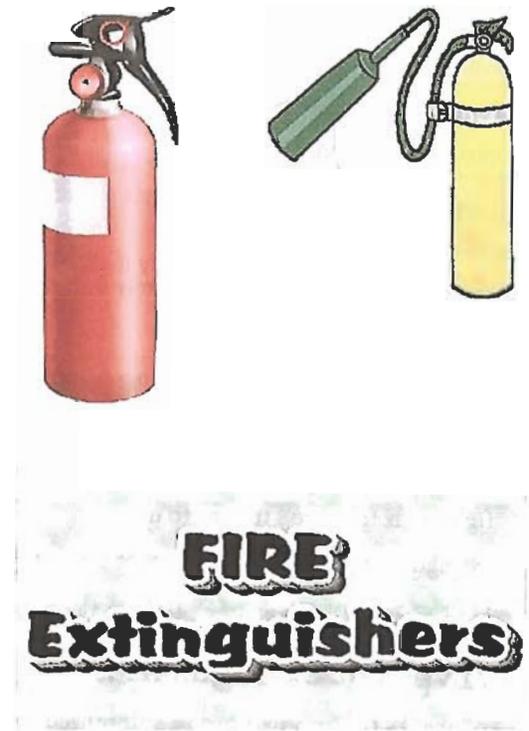
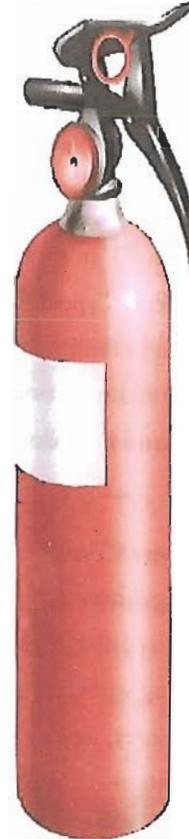
the nozzle, horn, or hose at the base of the flames. (6-8 feet)

Squeeze

or press the handle.

Sweep

from side to side at the base of the fire until it goes out.



Know your fire extinguisher.

A fire extinguisher is your best defense against fires that have just begun to burn. Fire extinguishers can:

-  buy you enough time to get out of a burning structure, or
- extinguish fires completely if used properly.

Using the wrong type of fire extinguisher can worsen a fire out of all proportions. It is important to know the type of fire you are fighting before you attempt to use an extinguisher. If you have any doubt about the kind of fire facing you, don't fight it alone.

Types of extinguishers:

Type A- for fires that need a substance like water to cool burning materials down below ignition level. (Burning paper, cloth, wood, rubber, and plastics.)

Type BC- contains chemicals that fight (1) Class B fires (flammable liquids, gases, and greases) and (2) Class C fires (energized electrical equipment, electrical fire, and burning wires.)

Type ABC- Multi-purpose extinguishers that fight all three types of fires.



Look for universal symbols on extinguishers. A B C

A= An "A" in a green triangle represents Type A extinguishers that fight ordinary combustibles such as burning trash, wood, rubber, cloth, and plastics.

B= A "B" in a red square represents Type B extinguishers that fight flammable liquids, gases, and greases such as oils, paints, and gasoline.

C= A "C" in a blue circle represents Type C Extinguishers that fight energized electrical fires such as burning wires, switches, machinery, and home appliances.

Unless you know something about the many types of extinguishers on the market, buying one can be confusing. Extinguishers contain substances that fight different classes of fires. Some are multi-purpose extinguishers that can be used for more than one kind of fire.



Where should fire extinguishers be located?

It's best to keep extinguishers in high-traffic areas, always in plain sight. Don't hide them behind drapes, under tables, or in closets. At least one extinguisher should be kept on each floor of your home, including one for the basement and attic.

 -- Place extinguishers on wall brackets no higher than five feet from the floor and near exit and hazard areas.

 -- Know the hazard areas in your home and office.

How can you keep time on your side?

- Call your fire department first.
- Always keep your fire extinguishers serviced and ready for use. Pressure gauges and carbon dioxide containers should be checked monthly.
- All containers should be checked on a regular basis.



Keep inspection records.

Keeping inspection records for your fire extinguishers will help keep track of usage and service.