



Fire Extinguishers: Your First-Aid to Fire Fighting

Introduction

Portable fire extinguishers effectively extinguish 90% of all fires before fire department response. Research shows that fires get out of control in 3-5 minutes. The fire extinguisher is your first-aid to fire fighting. An average extinguisher discharges completely in less than 1 minute. Therefore, it is important that you know at least two locations nearest to your work area, and know how to use it effectively.

Safety Precautions

- ♦ Before using a fire extinguisher, **ALWAYS** pull the building fire alarm first.
- ♦ Do not attempt to use a fire extinguisher if the fire is large and spreading. Use it only for small fire-defense, e.g., a waste paper basket.
- ♦ Do not use the fire extinguisher if the lock pin is tampered, the cylinder is damaged, or if the pressure gauge pointer is in the 'RECHARGE' zone.
- ♦ Do not use the fire extinguisher if you are not trained and confident about using it.
- ♦ Read the extinguisher label to check if it is of right type for the kind of fire at hand. The label indicates one or more of the fire classes and symbols and specific applications for which it can be used (see chart on page 2).
- ♦ Protect yourself at all times:
 - Never block your escape route.
 - Stay low. Avoid breathing the heated smoke and fumes.
 - If the fire cannot be controlled, get out immediately to safety.

How to Use a Fire Extinguisher:

- ♦ Position yourself at a safe distance from the fire (e.g., 8-10 feet when using an ABC-type unit, 5-7 feet when using a CO2 unit, or 20-25 feet with Pressurized Water extinguisher).
- ♦ Remember the **'PASS'** Procedure:
 - **Pull** the pin:
This unlocks the operating lever and allows you to discharge the extinguisher.
 - **Aim** low:
Point the extinguisher nozzle/horn/hose at the base of the fire.
 - **Squeeze** and hold
the handle to discharge the extinguishing agent without any interruption.
 - **Sweep** slowly
from side to side as you hold the handle squeezed.
- ♦ Move closer carefully as the fire gets smaller and as you continue spraying.
- ♦ Watch the fire area until it has completely cooled down.
- ♦ Repeat the 'PASS' procedure if the fire re-ignites.
- ♦ Once used, the extinguisher must be recharged. Report the discharged extinguisher to:
 - Newark – 2-4812
 - Piscataway – 5-4663
 - New Brunswick – 5-6211
 - Stratford/Camden – 6-6004



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Types of Fire Extinguishers

CLASS	SYMBOL	APPLICATION	IDENTIFICATION/DESCRIPTION
A	Letter "A" in Triangle	Ordinary Combustibles e.g. wood, paper, cloth	Stainless steel cylinder body with pressure gauge. Cools fire with pressurized water. Do Not use for flammable liquids (B) or electrical (C) fire.
B	Letter "B" in Square	Flammable liquids / gases e.g. gasoline, oil, paint.	Red cylinder body and horn, No gauge. Deprives the fire reaction of oxygen with carbon dioxide. Home kitchen fire use.
C	Letter "C" in Circle	Energized Electrical Equip. e.g. powered appliances	Interrupts chemical chain reaction. Both carbon dioxide & ABC type extinguishers can be used.
ABC	A, B & C	All of the above applications Multipurpose ABC, home use	Red cylinder body. Interrupts chemical chain reaction of fire with dry chemical powder. Most commonly used.
K	Letter K	Commercial cooking, deepfrying with oil & fats. Minimum rating: 2A: 1B: C: K	Stainless steel cylinder body with long safety wand. Cools & interrupts chemical reaction. Uses wet chemical with fine mist application. Relatively new.
AC	Water Mist Letter "A" Letter "C"	Trash, wood, paper and electrical equipment. For clean rooms; Minimum rating: 2A: C	White paint finish cylinder with long safety wand. Preferred for clean rooms, telecom, electronics equipment areas; Relatively new.

Contact Information:



Newark Campus
(973) 972-4812 ♦ Fax (973) 972-3694

Piscataway/New Brunswick Campus
(732) 235-4058 ♦ Fax (732) 235-5270

Scotch Plains Campus
(908) 889-2486 ♦ Fax (908) 889-2496

Camden/Stratford Campus
(856) 566-6189 ♦ Fax (856) 566-6352

Website ♦ <http://www2.umdnj.edu/eohssweb>