



SAFETY BRIEF

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS 101

We count on fire extinguishers to help us put out small fires, but do you know how to use an extinguisher effectively?

EXTINGUISHER TYPES

Fire extinguishers are classified by the types of fires they extinguish.

- **Class A**—Used on fires caused by ordinary combustible materials such as wood, paper, cloth and rubber.
- **Class B**—Used on fires caused by flammable or combustible liquids such as oil, gasoline and grease.
- **Class C**—Used on fires caused by live electrical equipment that require the use of nonconductive extinguishing agents.
- **Class D**—Used on fires caused by certain combustible metals (e.g., magnesium, titanium, zirconium, sodium).
- **Class K**—Used on grease and cooking oil fires in commercial kitchens and restaurants.

For most organizations, an ABC extinguisher is best.

EXTINGUISHER PLACEMENT

Extinguishers should be mounted on walls in highly visible locations throughout your facility. Look for signs that indicate where they are located.



PASS TECHNIQUE

If there is a fire, you should immediately call 911. Only use the fire extinguisher if the fire is small and in the early stages. The PASS technique can help you use a fire extinguisher more effectively.

Pull the pin.

Aim low, pointing the extinguisher's nozzle at the base of the flames.

Squeeze the handle to release the extinguishing agent.

Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire until it appears to be out.



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