

Portable Fire Extinguishers

When used properly, portable fire extinguishers can help save lives and property. They are also useful in containing small fires until the fire department arrives.

Portable fire extinguishers are not designed to extinguish large or spreading fires. Even against small fires, they are useful only under certain conditions. Before using a portable fire extinguisher, be sure the fire department has been notified. A few things to remember are.

Fire Extinguishers ARE designed for:

- Small fires
- Confined fire areas
- People who have read the directions earlier

Fire Extinguishers ARE NOT designed for:

- Large fires
- Rapidly growing fires
- People who are unfamiliar with fire extinguisher use

Fire extinguishers come in different classes. Know what is on fire and use the proper extinguisher.

Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D
Ordinary Combustibles Wood Paper Plastics Cloth	Flammable Liquids Grease Oil	Electrical Equipment TV VCR Power Tools	Flammable Metals Magnesium

WARNING! Using a fire extinguisher on the wrong class of fire can **MAKE THE FIRE WORSE!**

When a fire occurs always:

- First notify 911, and sound any alarms
- Evacuate *immediately*
- Rescue anyone in danger

You can try to use a fire extinguisher if you...

- Know the fire is small and confined
- Keep a clear escape route. Don't let the fire get between you and the exit
- Stay low, below the smoke
- If you have any doubt, leave the area
- Leave if fire grows out of control
- Close door to contain fire before you leave
- Wait for the fire department's permission before you re-enter the area

NEVER...

- Attempt to extinguish a large or rapidly growing fire
- Fight fires without an escape route
- Fight fires in a smoke filled room
- Fight fires if you are in doubt
- Assume the fire is out. Wait until the area is inspected by the fire department.

Ignoring any of these steps can be dangerous and fatal.