

Q: Once activated, how long will an extinguisher operate?

A: You will only have about 15-20 seconds of use once you begin to disperse the extinguishing agent.



Q: When is a fire too big to use an extinguisher?

A: When a fire is bigger than “you,” then DO NOT attempt to put it out. Get out of the area and call 911 immediately.



Q: How often does an extinguisher need to be inspected?

A: At least once a year, and by a technician licensed by the State Fire Marshal’s Office.



State Fire Marshal’s Office

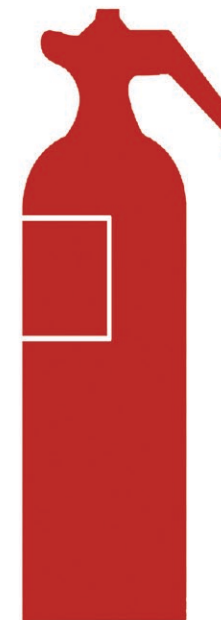
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THE Q & A SERIES

**The “Low Down”
on Using FIRE
EXTINGUISHERS**



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Q: Are all extinguishers the same?

A: No. There are several types and sizes, all based on the type of fire they are designed to extinguish:



Class A fires involve ordinary combustibles like paper, wood, cloth, and most plastics.



Class B fires involve flammable liquids such as gasoline, oil, and solvents.



Class C fires involve electrical equipment including outlets and wiring.



Class D fires involve combustible metals like magnesium, aluminum, sodium, and potassium.

K

Class K fires involve combustible cooking elements such as animal or vegetable oils and fats.

Q: Why can't I use any extinguisher on any fire?

A: Different types of fires require different forms of extinguishing agents.

Some extinguishers contain extinguishing agents that will work on a variety of fires. Look for the classes clearly marked on the label. Extinguishers that can be used on multiple types of fires are typically labeled “multi-purpose-ABC.”



Q: Where should the extinguishers be located?

A: By law, extinguishers must be conspicuously located and readily accessible for immediate use in the event of a fire. Extinguishers must be distributed in such a way that the amount of time needed to travel to their location and back to the fire does not allow the fire to get out of control.

Q: How do I use an extinguisher?

A: Always follow the **P.A.S.S.** acronym:

PULL the pin.

AIM at the base of the fire.

SQUEEZE the lever.

SWEEP the nozzle from side to side.

