

If I Discover a Fire, Should I Use My Portable Fire Extinguisher?

Yes, **ONLY** if the following conditions apply:

- Everyone has left the fire area, and is evacuating the building.
- The fire department has been called.
- The fire is confined to a small area.
- A clear escape route exists between you and the fire.
- There is an appropriate, working fire extinguisher available.
- You have read the extinguisher instructions and have received training in its safe operation.

Is There Anything Else I Need to Know?

- Follow manufacturer's instructions for care and maintenance.
- Check the extinguisher pressure gauge every month to ensure the unit is holding its charge.
- Regardless of the amount of extinguisher agent used, assume the extinguisher is empty. Refill or replace the extinguisher after each use. Rechargeable models should be serviced after every use and remember that disposable extinguishers must be replaced.



REMEMBER WORD **PASS**

HOW TO USE EXTINGUISHER



PULL THE PIN



AIM THE NOZZLE



SQUEEZE THE LEVER



SWEEP SIDE TO SIDE



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FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 9-1-1!

Portable Fire Extinguishers



Kitimat Fire & Ambulance Services

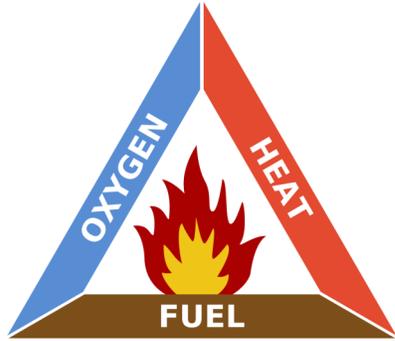
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What is Fire?

Fire is a combination of oxygen, fuel, heat, and chemical reaction. This is called the Fire Triangle. Remove any one side of the triangle and the fire will go out.



Why Do I Need a Portable Fire Extinguisher?

It is always better to fight a fire through prevention and early detection. However, with training and practice adults can use a portable fire extinguisher to extinguish small, contained fires. Extinguishing a small-contained fire, such as a cooking pan, wastebasket fire or campfire may prevent needless injury and minimize property damage.



What Are The Different Types of Portable Fire Extinguishers?

Portable fire extinguishers are categorized by ratings. These ratings determine the size and type of fire that the extinguishers can effectively put out. The three most common classes of fire are A, B, and C. The fourth class is D.

Check the extinguisher label and purchase an extinguisher that is appropriate for the type and size of fire you may encounter. Only choose extinguishers that have been tested by an approved testing laboratory and labelled for their intended use (e.g. ULL, ULC).



Class A fires involve common combustibles such as wood, paper, cloth, rubber, trash and plastics.



Class B fires involve flammable liquids, solvents, oil, gasoline, paints, lacquers, and other oil-based products.



Class C fires involve energized electrical equipment such as wiring, controls, motors, machinery, or appliances.



Class D fires involve combustible metals such as magnesium, lithium, and titanium.



Where Should I Install My Portable Fire Extinguisher?

- Extinguishers should be located in convenient locations throughout the home.
- Place them in areas that contain potential fire hazards such as the kitchen (not too close to the stove), workshop, garage, and basement.
- In each area, place the extinguisher near the door so you can reach it easily, extinguish the fire and ensure a quick, safe escape.

How Do I Use My Portable Fire Extinguisher?

- Keep well back of the fire when using the extinguisher.
- Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you. **PULL** the pin to unlock the operating lever.
- **AIM** the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire. Hold the extinguisher vertically.
- **SQUEEZE** the handle fully to release the contents of the extinguisher.
- **SWEEP** the nozzle from side to side aiming at the base of the fire.

NOTE: If your extinguisher is empty or the fire grows larger, leave the building immediately, closing the doors behind you. Once outside, call 911. Do not re-enter the building until the fire department says it is safe to do so.