

Grand Island Fire Department

Portable Fire Extinguishers



FIRE SAFETY
We all take part

PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS FOR BUSINESS

- ◆ It is required by law that all portable fire extinguishers be serviced annually by a licensed company.
- ◆ All extinguishers are to be mounted where readily available and visible with the top of the extinguisher no higher than five feet from the ground.
- ◆ Most portable fire extinguishers will be a 2A 10BC rating and have one for every seventy-five feet of travel distance.
- ◆ Training is required for all employees, either through lecture or hands-on training.

PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS FOR HOME USE

- ◆ It is not required by law to have a portable extinguisher for home use; however it is always beneficial!
- ◆ In order to keep the chemical from caking (becoming solid) shake the extinguisher several times a year.
- ◆ If providing a portable extinguisher for your home, make sure to keep it in an accessible location.
- ◆ Although a portable fire extinguisher can be used for a kitchen fire, if you have a grease fire, it is best to slide a lid over the pan on fire.

CLASSES OF FIRE

The four classes of fire are A, B, C and D. Choosing the right extinguisher for the type of fire is extremely important to reduce the severity of the fire.



Common materials such as paper, wood or most other combustibles



Flammable liquids such as gasoline, paint remover or grease



Electrical fires



Combustible metals usually found in industry

Before using a fire extinguisher, make sure that you follow these guidelines



1. The building fire alarm has been sounded (if installed) or all occupants have been alerted.
2. Everyone has left or is in the process of leaving the building.
3. The Fire Department (911) has been called.
4. The fire is small and confined to a small area.
5. Your escape route is clear and is not blocked by fire.
6. You know where the fire extinguisher is and that you can lift it.
7. You are using the correct type of fire extinguisher.
8. You have had training on how to use the fire extinguisher.

A portable fire extinguisher can be a very effective tool in saving lives and property for small, contained fires. There are limitations to portable fire extinguishers; they are not designed to fight large fires or fires that spread quickly. Use of the portable fire extinguisher should only be in the early (incipient) stages of the fire.

EXTINGUISHER OPERATION

When a small fire breaks out, have someone else call the fire department (911) **IMMEDIATELY!** To use the portable fire extinguisher effectively, remember the four-step acronym **P.A.S.S.**

P= Pull the pin

While holding the nozzle pointing away from you. Remove the pin, seal or lever release mechanism to unlock the operating lever.

A= Aim the extinguisher

Aim at the base (bottom) of the fire. Always hold the extinguisher upright and stand about 6-10 feet away from the fire.

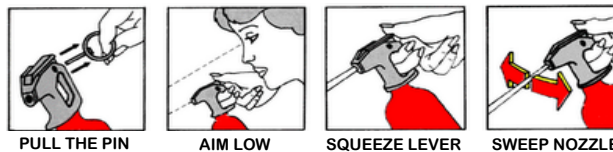
S= Squeeze

Squeeze the lever fully to release the extinguishing agent through the nozzle. Releasing the lever will stop the discharge.

S= Sweep

Sweep the nozzle from side to side. Continue the sweeping motion until the fire is extinguished. If you run out of chemical before the fire is out, either have a second extinguisher within arms reach or leave immediately. **Never turn your back on the fire area, even if you think the fire is out!**

REMEMBER TO:



WHAT IS FIRE?

Fire is a combination of oxygen, fuel and heat. This is called the **Fire Triangle**.

Remove any one side of the triangle and the fire will go out.



FUEL can be any solid, liquid or gas.

HEAT raises materials to their ignition temperature.

OXYGEN (AIR) is the oxidizing agent extracted from the air.

Grand Island Fire Department

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- ♦ Station 3
2310 S. Webb Road 385-5337
- ♦ Station 4
3690 W. State St. 385-5387