



## In Case of Fire

The ratings of fire extinguishers, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, can help you choose the right fire extinguisher for the job:

- **A Rating:** Air-pressurized water extinguishers can handle ordinary combustibles such as paper, cloth, wood, rubber and many plastics.
- **B Rating:** Carbon dioxide extinguishers are used for fires in oils, gasoline, some paints, lacquers, grease, solvents and other flammable liquids.
- **C Rating:** Dry chemical extinguishers fight fires in wiring, fuse boxes, live electrical equipment, computers and other electrical sources.
- **Multipurpose Rating:** This type of extinguisher also can handle ordinary combustibles, flammable liquids or electrical equipment, making it suitable for use on A-, B- and C-type fires.
- **Class D:** This rating is specific to combustible metals that require special extinguishers. Fires that are comprised of powders, flakes or shavings of combustible metals (magnesium, titanium, potassium and sodium) require Class D extinguishers.
- **Class K:** Kitchen fires often involve cooking fluids such as oils and fats. Class K extinguishers are engineered to handle these types of fires.

**Note:** Some fire extinguishing equipment may not put out fires involving vegetable oil in deep-fat fryers. Please check with the extinguisher manufacturer to be sure.

OSHA recommends following these steps when responding to a fire that has just started to burn:

- Engage the fire alarm and use 9-1-1- to alert the fire department, if appropriate.
- Choose the appropriate type of fire extinguisher.
- Identify a safe evacuation path before approaching the fire. Do not allow the fire, heat or smoke to come between you and the evacuation path.
- Discharge the extinguisher within its effective range using the P.A.S.S. technique (see below).
- After putting out the fire, back away in case it reignites.
- If the extinguisher is empty but the fire is not out, evacuate immediately.

Evacuate immediately if the fire progresses beyond its initial stage of burning.

## P-A-S-S Technique

- **Pull** the pin at the top of the cylinder to unlock the operating lever.
- **Aim** the hose or nozzle at the base of the fire.
- **Squeeze** the lever to discharge the agent that will extinguish the fire.
- **Sweep** from side to side, aiming at the base of the fire until the fire is out.



PULL THE PIN



AIM THE NOZZLE AT THE FIRE



PULL THE PIN



AIM THE NOZZLE AT THE FIRE

For information on fire extinguishers and requirements, visit OSHA's eTools:  
[www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/portable\\_required.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/portable_required.html)

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Safety tips developed based on generally accepted safety standards believed to be reliable at the date of publication. Information is for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for legal compliance purposes.

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