

Using a Portable Extinguisher

Stand 6-8 feet from the fire and follow the PASS procedure.

Pull the pin: This unlocks the operating lever and allows you to discharge the extinguisher. Some extinguishers have other lever-release mechanisms.

Aim low: Point the extinguisher hose at the base of the fire.

Squeeze the lever above the handle: This discharges the extinguishing agent. Releasing the lever will stop the discharge.

Sweep from side to side: Moving carefully toward the fire, keep the extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire and sweep back and forth until the flames appear to be out. Watch the fire area. If the fire re-ignites, repeat the process.



Types of Fire extinguishers

Pressurized water extinguishers: For use on class A fires only. Never use on electrical or flammable-liquid fires.

Dry Chemical extinguishers: Blanket burning material with powdered chemicals. Available in both ABC and BC.

Carbon Dioxide: Contain pressurized liquid carbon-dioxide, which turns into a gas when expelled. Rated for B and C fires but never hesitate to use on a class A.



San Carlos Park Fire District

19591 Ben Hill Griffin Parkway
Fort Myers, FL 33913

Phone: 239-267-7525
Fax: 239-267-7505

Portable Fire Extinguishers

San Carlos Park Fire District



Fighting small fires at work or in the home



Tel: 239-267-7525

Fighting Small Fires

Used properly, a portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing one until the San Carlos Park Fire District Arrives.

Portable extinguishers, whether at work or in the home are designed to fight small fires. If the fire is large or spreading, evacuate your home or workplace immediately.



Consider this before fighting a fire with a portable extinguisher:

- The operator must know how to use the extinguisher prior to the emergency situation.
- There should be a clear escape route should you not be able to extinguish the fire.
- The extinguisher must be fully charged, in working order and easy to reach.
- The extinguisher must match the class of fire being fought. Extinguishers containing water are NOT suitable for use on grease or electrical fires.

Classes of Fires

There are 3 basic classes of fires. All fire extinguishers are labeled with standard symbols for the classes of fires they put out. A slash through any of the symbols tells you the extinguisher cannot be used on that class of fire. A missing symbol tells you only that the fire extinguisher has not been tested for a given class of fire.

Class A: Ordinary combustibles such as wood, cloth, and paper.



Class B: flammable liquids such as gasoline, oil, and oil-based paint.

Class C: Energized electrical equipment – including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers, machinery, and appliances.

It is very important you use the correct class of extinguisher for the class of fire being fought. Many extinguishers are multipurpose (labeled ABC), may be used on all three classes of fire.



Extinguisher sizes

Portable extinguishes are also rated for the size of fire they can handle. This rating is expressed as a number from 1 to 40 for Class A fires and 1 to 640 for Class B fires. This rating will appear on the label—2A:10B:C, for example. The larger the numbers, the larger the fire of a specific class on which the extinguisher can be used. No number accompanies an extinguisher's C rating. The C on the label indicates only that the extinguisher is tested for use on electrical fires.

Extinguisher location

Fire extinguishers should be in plain view, above the reach of children, near an exit, and easily accessible.

Maintenance

Extinguishers require regular maintenance. Read the operator's manual and learn how to inspect your extinguisher. Rechargeable models must be serviced after every use.