

# FIRE EXTINGUISHERS



*Fire extinguishers can save lives and property, but should only be used if the fire is small, smoke and heat have not filled the room, and if you have a clear escape route. If you're unsure, evacuate immediately and call 9-1-1.*



*Since fire grows and spreads rapidly, the number one priority is to get out safely.*



**Orange County  
Fire Authority**

**(714) 573-6200**  
**ocfa.org**



## Types of Fire Extinguishers

Multipurpose (ABC) fire extinguishers are recommended for home use. Fire classifications are used to indicate the type of fire they will extinguish.

- A – For use with ordinary materials like cloth, wood, and paper.
- B – For use with flammable liquids like grease, gasoline, oil, and oil-based paints.
- C – For use with electrical equipment that is connected to an outlet.

## Before Using a Fire Extinguisher

- Alert others that there is a fire and appoint someone to call 9-1-1.
- Make sure the fire is small, not spreading, and that you have a clear escape route.

## The P.A.S.S. Method

- Pull the pin.
- Aim low. Stand six to eight feet away and point the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire.
- Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- Sweep the nozzle from side to side until the fire is completely out.

## Fire Extinguisher Maintenance

- Keep your extinguisher in plain view and out of the reach of children.
- Read and follow all instructions on the label and check for dents, corrosion or damage monthly.
- Non-rechargeable fire extinguishers should generally be replaced every five to seven years.
- Fire extinguishers are good for one use only. To dispose of an extinguisher, release the pressure by squeezing contents into a trash can. Let the extinguisher sit for 48 hours and then throw it in a trash can. You can also drop off used extinguishers at any household hazardous waste facility.