



Fire Extinguishers

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives, but it has limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the number one priority for residents is to get out safely.

SAFETY TIPS

- Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.
- For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be challenging to handle.
- Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. Ramsey Fire offers hands-on fire extinguisher training.
- Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.
- Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.
- Most fire extinguishers are emptied in less than a minute.



FIRE EXTINGUISHER USE - PASS

Be sure to remember the PASS operating technique for fire extinguishers. PASS Stands for:

- P** - Pull the pin. Pulling the pin unlocks the operating lever or button, allowing you to discharge the extinguisher. Stand at least 6 to 8 feet from the fire.
- A** - Aim low, pointing the extinguisher nozzle or hose at the base of the fire.
- S** - Squeeze the lever below the handle. Squeezing the lever discharges the extinguisher's contents. When you release the lever, the discharge stops. Some models have a button to press rather than a lever.
- S** - Moving carefully toward the fire, keep the extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire and sweep from side to side until the flames appear to be out.

Watch the area. If the fire starts up again, repeat the **PASS** technique.



REMEMBER WORD **PASS**

HOW TO USE EXTINGUISHER



PULL THE PIN



AIM THE NOZZLE



SQUEEZE THE LEVER



SWEEP SIDE TO SIDE



RAMSEY FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

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