



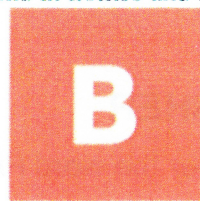
Oceanside Fire Department 300 N. Coast Hwy, Oceanside 92054 760-435-4305

FIRE EXTINGUISHER USAGE

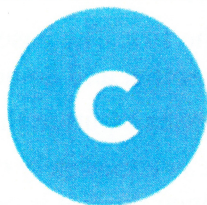
There are five primary types of fire extinguishers, each designed to put out different kinds of fires.



For use with **ordinary materials like cloth, wood and paper, trash, plastics and solids that are not metals.**
Often found in homes and businesses



For use with **combustible and flammable liquids like grease, gasoline, oil and oil-based paints, and acetone.**
Often found in homes and businesses



For use with **electrical equipment like appliances, tools, or other equipment that is plugged in.**
Often found in homes and businesses



For use with **flammable metals-potassium, sodium, aluminum, magnesium. Requires special extinguishing agents.**
Often found in factories



For use with **vegetable oils, animal oils and fats in cooking appliances.**
Often found in commercial kitchens (restaurants, cafeterias, catering businesses)

There are also multipurpose fire extinguishers that might be labeled "B-C" or "A-B-C." Most home improvement stores carry multipurpose fire extinguishers that cover Class A through Class C.

WHEN WOULD YOU USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Fire extinguishers can be helpful on a small fire. Below are steps to take to help you prepare to use a fire extinguisher on a potential fire.

For example:

- Alert others in the building that there's a fire?
- Have someone call the fire department? (Dial 9-1-1)
- Consider - are you physically able to use a fire extinguisher?
- Is the fire small and contained in a single object (like a pan or a wastebasket)?
- Are you safe from the fire's toxic smoke?
- Do you have a clear escape route?

Use a fire extinguisher when all of these questions are answered "yes." If you're unsure about whether or not it's safe to use a fire extinguisher, and for all other situations, alert others, leave the building, and call 911 from a mobile or neighbor's phone. It is not recommended that children use fire extinguishers.

HOW TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

When operating a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS:

- **P**ull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you and release the locking mechanism. This will allow you to discharge the extinguisher.
- **A**im low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire. The base of the fire is called the fuel...if you aim at the flames, the extinguishing agent will pass right through and do no good.
- **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly. This depresses a button that releases the pressurized extinguishing agent.
- **S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side until the fire is completely out. You want to make sure that you are a safe distance away and then slowly move forward. Once the fire is out, keep an eye on the area in case it re-ignites.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER MAINTENANCE

Check fire extinguishers for:

Easy access in an emergency

Be sure nothing is blocking or limiting your ability to reach it.

The recommended pressure level

Many extinguishers have gauges that show when pressure is too high or too low.

Working parts

Make sure the can, hoses and nozzles aren't damaged, dented, or rusted.

Cleanliness

Remove any dust, oil, or grease that might be on the outside of the extinguisher.

Guidelines and instructions

Some extinguishers need to be shaken monthly, others need to be pressure tested every few years.