



Fire Extinguishers Decoded

Integral to YOUR SAFETY, Because it MATTERS



Portable fire extinguishers are first-line defense tools used to suppress small fires before they spread. They must be used properly and selected based on hazard type. While they are not a replacement for automatic systems, they provide a critical manual response option during the early stages of a fire.

Fire Extinguisher Types

- **Class A:** Combustibles (wood, paper)
- **Class B:** Flammable liquids (grease, gas)
- **Class C:** Electrical fires
- **Class D:** Combustible metals
- **Class K:** Cooking oils/fats (kitchens)

PASS Technique

The PASS technique is a simple method for using a fire extinguisher effectively.

- **P**ull the pin: This unlocks the extinguisher and allows discharge.
- **A**im the nozzle low, at the base of the fire.
- **S**queeze the handle to release the extinguishing agent.
- **S**weep the nozzle side to side, covering the area of the fire until it appears out.

Only attempt to use a fire extinguisher if the fire is small and contained, you have a clear evacuation path, and you feel safe doing so.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do extinguishers expire?

A: They require regular servicing and may be condemned after inspection.

Q: Can I use any extinguisher for any fire?

A: No, using the wrong type can worsen the fire.

Q: What is the first thing I do before I use a fire extinguisher?

A: Make sure you have a safe exit route and that the fire is small and manageable. Always alert others and call emergency services before attempting to extinguish the fire.

Inspection & Maintenance Frequencies (per NFPA 10)

Monthly - Visual inspection

Annually - Maintenance check

Every 6 Years - Internal examination

Every 12 Years - Hydrostatic testing for stored-pressure water/ABC types

*** This information is provided as a general resource to assist property managers, building engineers, and facility management professionals in understanding fire and life safety best practices. It is not intended to serve as a comprehensive or exhaustive list of fire protection requirements.

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