



# INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

## Fire Extinguisher Use

TOPIC: FIRE EXTINGUISHER USE

TIME FRAME: 20 - 30 minutes

AUDIENCE: Adults

OBJECTIVES:

- Students will learn how and when to use a fire extinguisher.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Visual Aid - Information Sheet – Fire Extinguisher
- Visual Aid – Fire Extinguisher

KEY MESSAGES:

- Before operating a fire extinguisher the following should be considered:
  - Is the building/home being evacuated and has 9-1-1 been called
  - Is the fire small, no bigger than a pan or office size trash can
  - Have your back to a clear exit
  - Does the type of extinguisher match the type of fire
- Fires are classified into four general categories depending on the type of fuel involved. Universal symbols and/or pictures are found on most fire extinguishers to indicate the class of fire the extinguisher can be used on. Using the wrong type of extinguisher can cause a fire to spread.
  - Class A – Ordinary Combustibles (paper, wood, cloth, plastic)
  - Class B – Flammable Liquids (gasoline, oil, paint, grease)
  - Class C – Charged Electrical (wiring, appliances, motors)
  - Class D – Flammable Metals (magnesium, potassium – not found in typical home/business)
  - Class K – Commercial cooking of fats and oil
- Keep extinguishers easily accessible and close to high-traffic areas.
- To use an extinguisher safely, stand 6 – 8 feet from the fire with your back to an un-blocked exit and use the PASS procedure.
  - P - Pull the safety pin at the top of the extinguisher.
  - A - Aim the nozzle, or hose low at the base of the flames, holding vertically.
  - S - Squeeze or press the handle to release the extinguishing agent.
  - S - Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire, sweeping at least 6" past the edges of the fuel source.
- Once the fire goes out – watch for re-ignition. Have the fire department inspect the fire site even if you have extinguished it.
- Fire extinguishers are designed for small fires that have not spread from the point of origin. If fire can't be extinguished with one extinguisher, don't try another. When in doubt, get out and stay out, leave the firefighting to the professionals.
- When purchasing for home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher that is labeled for A B and C classes of fire.
- For service or maintenance, look up 'fire extinguisher' in the yellow pages or on the web.

**Information from the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District / [www.metrofire.ca.gov](http://www.metrofire.ca.gov)  
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