



# FIRE EXTINGUISHER OPERATIONS/SAFETY TIPS:



There are five classes of fire extinguishers.

All fire extinguishers are labeled with standard symbols, letters, or both for the classes of fire they can put out.

## Fire Extinguisher Ratings:



**Class A Extinguishers** will put out fires in ordinary combustibles, such as wood and paper. The numerical rating for this class of fire extinguisher refers to the amount of water the fire extinguisher holds and the amount of fire it will extinguish.



**Class B Extinguishers** should be used on fires involving flammable liquids, such as grease, gasoline, oil, etc. The numerical rating for this class of fire extinguisher states the approximate number of square feet of a flammable liquid fire that a non-expert person can expect to extinguish.



**Class C Extinguishers** are suitable for use on electrically energized fires. This class of fire extinguishers does not have a numerical rating. The presence of the letter “C” indicates that the extinguishing agent is non-conductive.



**Class D Extinguishers** are designed for use on flammable metals and are often specific for the type of metal in question. There is no picture designator for Class D extinguishers. These extinguishers generally have no rating nor are they given a multi-purpose rating for use on other types of fires.



**Class K Extinguishers** are designed for use on kitchen fires caused by cooking media such as fats, greases, and oils.



- Multi-purpose fire extinguishers labeled **ABC**, may be used on all three classes of fire.
- Extinguishers labeled “For Class A Fires Only” contain water and are unsuitable for use on grease or electrical fires.
- A red slash through any symbols indicates the extinguisher cannot be used on that class of fire. A missing symbol indicates the extinguisher has not been tested for that class of fire.
- Use of the wrong type of extinguisher can endanger others and/or make the fire worse.

## Fire Extinguisher Operations:

- To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word P.A.S.S.:
  - **P**ull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.
  - **A**im low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
  - **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
  - **S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side.
- Fire extinguishers are located in all university buildings. Fire extinguisher types in university buildings are based on a hazard evaluation specific to the space/area.
- Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before use. Contact the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) to request fire extinguisher training.
- Fire extinguishers are installed close to exits. 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. Establish an emergency egress plan prior to use of any university building or residence. Employ the emergency egress plan if the fire cannot be readily extinguished with a fire extinguisher.