

# Loss Prevention Safety Tip



Loss Prevention  
Program

By Red River Mutual

## FIRE EXTINGUISHER OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

When used properly, a fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until firefighters arrive. Fire extinguishers do not replace the need to call your local fire department - always call 9-1-1 when a fire occurs, no matter how small.

### Operating a Fire Extinguisher

Remember the acronym “P.A.S.S.” to effectively put out a fire:

- **PULL** the pin
- **AIM** the nozzle at base of fire
- **SQUEEZE** the handle
- **SWEEP** the nozzle side to side

A typical fire extinguisher contains 10 seconds of extinguishing power. Once the fire is out, don't walk away! Watch the area for a few minutes in case it re-ignites. Be sure to recharge all extinguishers immediately after use regardless of how much they were used.

### Remember...

Never place yourself or others in jeopardy by attempting to extinguish a fire. If you cannot extinguish a small fire with a portable fire extinguisher, or if the smoke becomes hazardous, leave the area immediately. Close the door to confine and contain the fire. Call 9-1-1 and wait outside for the firefighters to arrive.

### Types of Fire

The most common household fire extinguishers are dry chemical and rated class ABC. These are effective for use on common combustibles, flammable liquids and fires involving electrical equipment.

### Inspection & Maintenance

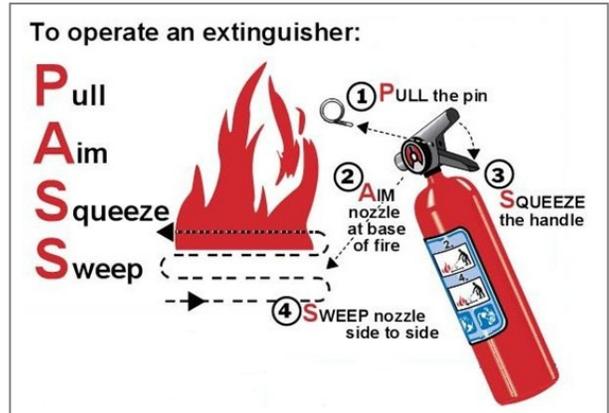
Check your extinguishers every 30 days for the following:

- The extinguisher is not blocked by equipment or objects that could interfere with access in an emergency.
- The pressure gauge shows the needle in the recommended green zone.
- The nozzle or other parts are not blocked or hindered in any way.
- The pin and tamper seal are intact.
- There are no dents, leaks, rust, chemical deposits, oil, dust or signs of wear.
- Shake or use a rubber mallet to tamp the extinguisher once a month to prevent the powder from settling.

Fire extinguishers should be inspected annually by a certified service company and pressure tested (a process called hydrostatic testing) after 12 years to ensure that the cylinder is safe to use. Consult your owner's manual, extinguisher label or the manufacturer to see when yours may need such testing. If the extinguisher is damaged or needs recharging, replace it immediately!

**See more loss prevention tips at [www.preventingloss.com](http://www.preventingloss.com)**

While the safety recommendations in this report are based on apparent and obvious conditions that were found at the time of inspection, the report does not purport to identify all hazards or guarantee compliance with any standards, codes, ordinances or regulations. It is not legal or expert advice, and should not be used in place of consultation with appropriate professionals. Any person relying on this information does so entirely at their own risk. Red River Mutual denies all responsibility for any liability, loss, injury or risk which is incurred as a direct or indirect result of the use of any of the recommendations in this report.



Class ABC is effective on these types of fires:



trash, wood, paper



flammable liquids



electrical equipment

