

# Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers serve as a first line of defense for small fires or a means to escape from a fire. As a best practice, let us take steps to prevent fires. It is important to keep our work areas clear of combustible and flammable materials, particularly when doing tasks that create sparks. Inspect extinguishers periodically and make them accessible while performing spark-creating tasks.

Here are brief descriptions of fire classifications and the recommended extinguishers for each:

- **Class “A” Fires (Produce Ash):** Combustible fires caused by rubbish, paper, rags, scrap lumber, etc. Recommended extinguishers include water, soda-acid, and carbon dioxide extinguishers.
- **Class “B” Fires (Liquids Boil):** This includes fires caused by flammable liquids, oils, and grease. Carbon dioxide, dry chemical, and foam extinguishers provide the best extinguishing option.
- **Class “C” Fires (Electric Current):** These are fires caused by electrical equipment. They are fires that required a non-conducting extinguishing agent. Carbon dioxide and dry chemical extinguishers best extinguish these fires.
- **Class “D”- Fire extinguisher used on combustible metals such as magnesium, titanium, sodium, etc.** Extinguishing materials do not react with the burning metal.
- **Class “K” Fires (Burning fats, grease, and oils).** These fire extinguishers use an alkaline mixture to create a soapy foam to suffocate the fire.

## Use the PASS method when extinguishing fires.

P—Pull the pin

A—Aim at the base of the fire

S—Squeeze the handle

S—Sweep the base of the fire

## Things to remember:

- Water conducts electricity; do not use water on electrical fires.
- Only attempt to extinguish small fires, no larger than a small garbage pail.
- Evacuate if there is a large fire.
- Evacuate when the extinguisher empties but the fire still burns.
- Make sure hoses and nozzles are free of damage.
- Look for damage to the shell such as dents or holes.

For more information and additional risk management and prevention tools, visit: [fwcruminsurance.com](http://fwcruminsurance.com)