



The  
**ABC's**  
of Home  
Fire Extinguishers



**When used properly, a portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until Fire & Emergency Services arrive.**

**Only attempt to extinguish a fire if the following is in place:**

- Everyone has left, or is leaving the house and someone is calling the fire department by dialling 911.
- The fire is small, not spreading, and the smoke or heat does not pose a threat.
- Your extinguisher matches the type of fire you are attempting to fight.
- You have confidence in fighting the fire, and you are familiar with the use of the extinguisher.

**Remember: Don't get trapped by fire. Always keep your back to a clear exit.**



To operate your fire extinguisher, remember the word “**PASS**”

**P** – Pull the locking

pin, twisting if necessary, to break the seal to unlock the lever.



**A** – Aim low.

Point the extinguisher nozzle or hose at the base of the fire. (Stay a safe distance away.)



**S** – Squeeze

the lever above the handle all the way to release the extinguishing agent.



**S** – Sweep

the nozzle or hose from side to side across the base of the fire. If the fire reignites, reapply.



**Never turn your back on the fire – even if you think it is out; it may reignite.**

**Extinguisher to put out a fire, immediately call Fire & Emergency Services.**

**There are three typical classes of fire you could encounter in your home.**

(Make sure you have the right type of fire extinguisher for the right kind of fire.)

**Class A: Ordinary combustibles**

Fires involving wood, cloth, paper, and plastics etc.

**Class B: Flammable liquids and gases**

Fires involving gasoline, cooking oils, propane etc.

**Class C: Charged electrical**

Fires involving live electrical power, such as power tools, wiring, fuse boxes, TVs, computers, etc.

**A fire extinguisher labelled ABC is a multi-purpose extinguisher and can be used on all three classes of fires.**



**Read the instructions label:  
An emergency is not  
the time to find out how  
an extinguisher works.**

## **Extinguisher Size**

Portable fire extinguishers are rated for the size of fire they can handle. Ratings will appear on the label of the extinguisher – **For example 2A:10B:C.**

The larger the numerical rating, the larger the fire it can extinguish. Look for the ULC label (Underwriters Laboratories of Canada) on the extinguisher. We recommend a multipurpose (ABC) fire extinguisher rated 2-A 10-B,C or 3-A 40-B,C for the home.

## **Limitations**

It is important to know that fire extinguishers are not intended for large or spreading fires. A fire extinguisher can completely discharge in as little as six to ten seconds.

## **Location**

Locate fire extinguishers in easily seen and accessible locations—preferably near an exit and not within ten feet of a potential source of fire. Do not store in closets or under sinks.

## **Maintenance**

Once a month inspect your fire extinguisher for damage and make sure it is fully charged. (See manufacturer's instructions for details.) Fire extinguishers should be serviced by a qualified service company after each use, even if not fully discharged. (Look in the yellow pages under Fire Extinguishers.)



For further information, please call  
**Mississauga**  
**Fire & Emergency Services**  
**Public Education**  
**905-896-5908**  
or visit us on our website  
**<http://www.mississauga.ca/fire>**

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