

To prevent fires from occurring or spreading, adopt the following processes into your day-to-day activities:

- Ensure you always have a fully charged fire extinguisher in your house and vehicle (**Tip:** check expiry & inspection dates!)
- If your fire extinguisher is expired, empty or damaged, replace it immediately.
- Crews - always bring the fire extinguisher into the worksite with you.
- Keep worksites clear of clutter and other fire hazards.

Safety Tips

There are many different types of materials that can burn, but not all of them can be put out with the same type of fire extinguisher. There are five different classes of fire materials and the various types of portable fire extinguishers that should be used to put out fires involving those materials. **The most common fire extinguishers used in this industry are rated for A.B.C. fires**

Classifications of Fires and Extinguishers

Class A fires involve ordinary combustible materials, such as cloth, wood, paper, rubber, and many plastics. Extinguishers with an A rating are designed to extinguish fires involving these ordinary combustible materials.

Class B fires involve flammable and combustible liquids such as gasoline, alcohol, oil-based paints, and lacquers. Therefore, extinguishers with a B rating are designed to extinguish fires involving flammable and combustible liquids. **Note:** Do not attempt to extinguish a fire involving flammable gas unless there is reasonable assurance the source of fuel can be promptly shut off. In fact, if the only fuel burning is the leaking gas, the best method for extinguishing the fire is to shut off the fuel supply. Extinguishing a flammable gas fire, without shutting off the fuel, will allow unburned gas to escape into the atmosphere, which may permit a dangerous accumulation of gas to develop, and an explosion may occur if the gas is exposed to an ignition source.

Class C fires involve energized electrical equipment. Extinguishers with a C rating are designed for use with fires involving energized electrical equipment.

Class D fires involve combustible metals, such as magnesium, titanium, and sodium. Extinguishers with a D rating are designed to extinguish fires involving combustible metals. **Note:** Common extinguishing agents may react with a combustible metal fire causing the severity of the fire to increase. The most common method for extinguishing a combustible metal fire is to cover the burning material with a dry powder, such as sand, which will not react with the material. If you store or use combustible metals, contact the Fire Prevention Services office for a consultation regarding the proper type and amount of extinguishing agent you should have available.

Class K fires involve vegetable oils, animal oils, or fats in cooking appliances. Extinguishers with a K rating are designed to extinguish fires involving vegetable oils, animal oils, or fats utilized in commercial cooking appliances. **Note:** Extinguishers with a K rating is normally required where deep-fryers and/or griddles are utilized to prepare large quantities of food. An example would be a commercial kitchen like those found in restaurants and cafeterias.

Multipurpose Extinguishers











Most portable extinguishers are rated for use with more than one classification of fire. For example, an extinguisher with a BC rating is suitable for use with fires involving flammable liquids and energized electrical equipment. An extinguisher with an ABC rating is suitable for use with fires involving ordinary combustibles, flammable liquids and energized electrical equipment.

An extinguisher that is rated for use with multiple hazards should include a symbol for each hazard type.

For anyone interested in receiving additional training, please contact your supervisor

Remember the **PASS** Word



		Ordinary Combustibles	Wood, Paper, Cloth, Etc.
		Flammable Liquids	Grease, Oil, Paint, Solvents
		Live Electrical Equipment	Electrical Panel, Motor, Wiring, Etc.
		Combustible Metal	Magnesium, Aluminum, Etc.
		Commercial Cooking Equipment	Cooking Oils, Animal Fats, Vegetable Oils

