

Fire Starters

When fire, oxygen, and fuel meet -- it's a deadly trio. Within 3 minutes, fire begins to spread from one room in your house and into the next. The more oxygen there is, the quicker a fire spreads.

Home fires most frequently start:

- where chemicals are stored.
- in the kitchen near the stove or electrical appliances.
- near over-crowded electrical outlets.
- as a result of careless smoking.



Fires occur where you least expect them. You may need two or more extinguishers in your home such as in the kitchen and the garage.

When Should You Fight?

Be sure you can answer "YES" to all of these questions before attempting to fight a small fire.

1. Is everyone out of the building? Has the fire department been called?
2. Is the fire small and contained in one area and not spreading?
3. Is there an escape route which is clear of obstacles and to your back?
4. Do you know how to operate the extinguisher and is it in working order?
5. Is the room clear of smoke?

If the fire does not respond within seconds, leave immediately ... this fire is for professionals!



Think twice before you fight!

Amazingly, every year, over 5,000 deaths occur as the result of residential fires.



More than 1/3 of all fire-related injuries occur while people are trying to fight fires. Small fire injuries are just as common and serious as large fire injuries. A man is twice as likely to be injured while fighting a fire because:

- a man's first reaction is to try to put out the fire.
- a woman tends to evacuate the area and then call for help.

Make portable fire extinguishers part of your home fire safety plan along with:

- installing and maintaining smoke detectors.
- having a home fire escape plan and practicing it often.

If you are unsure about fighting a small fire -- don't. Leave the area and call for help!



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Fire

Extinguishers

When to Fight Small Fires!



National Fire Safety Council, Inc.

Fire Extinguishers

Of all causes of death, fire deaths are the most preventable. The statistics prove that prevention is the smart way to protect your family. A charged and fully operational fire extinguisher is another way to protect your family from an unpredicted small home fire.

Every 74 seconds another residential fire occurs.

Have at least one multi-purpose fire extinguisher in your home! A single fire extinguisher is capable of putting out or holding back small contained fires until the firefighters can reach your home. It is another part of a practical fire safety plan.



What Extinguisher Fits Your Needs?

WHO ?

Consider the ages and physical strength of your family members. Make sure the extinguisher can be picked up and operated by the intended users. Do not encourage children to use extinguishers.

WHAT ?

Consider the types of fire your home is susceptible to and then choose the size or class of extinguisher that is needed.

WHERE ?

Each home needs at least one extinguisher, centrally located, out of children's reach, and away from potential fire hazards. Consider additional extinguishers for the kitchen and garage.

Every extinguisher varies so, be sure to read through your extinguisher's operations manual!

Extinguisher Operation

When a small fire breaks out, have someone else call the fire department immediately. If you are unable to put out the fire, valuable time will not be wasted.

Use the **PASS** word!

- P**ull the pin (or other motion) to unlock the extinguisher.
- A**im at the base (bottom) of the fire and stand 6 - 10 feet away.
- S**queeze the lever to discharge the agent.
- S**weep the spray from left to right until the flames are totally extinguished.

Watch the area and repeat if necessary; providing your extinguisher has not been fully discharged. Even if it appears to be out, your fire department should check the area for hidden fire or flames that could re-ignite.

The extinguisher you choose should be listed and labeled by an independent testing laboratory.

Class A

“Ordinary Combustibles” used on wood, rubber, cloth, paper, and plastic.

Class B

“Flammable Combustibles” used on gasoline, oil, grease, tar, lacquer, and oil-based paints.

Class C

“Electrical Equipment” used on wiring, fuse boxes, breakers, machinery, and appliances.

Class D

“Combustible Metals” used on industrial metal or metal dust.

Class A-B-C: “Multi-purpose” used on all types of A, B, or C fires found in most homes.

Using the wrong class of extinguisher can make a fire worse.

Maintenance

Over time, an extinguisher can lose pressure. Be sure to check it once a month. If it is rechargeable, take it to a service center. If it is not, replace it.

Periodically inspect extinguishers for damage such as corrosion, dents, or other signs of leaks.

Most extinguishers for home use discharge in as little as 8 - 10 seconds and must be replaced after each use.

Call your local fire department about training and practice for the public.

