



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

**FIRE EXTINGUISHER AWARENESS
AND PROPER USAGE**

FIGHT OR FLEE ?

- Fire is the most common emergency that must be planned for
- Should you attempt to fight a fire or just evacuate ?
- Small fires can be put out by a well-trained employee
- Employees must understand the use and limitation of a fire extinguisher

FIGHT OR FLEE ?

- Understand the hazards of fighting fires
- Training is conducted annually for all designated employees
- Only well-trained employees should consider fighting a fire
- Even if your trained, only fight the fire if you are sure of your abilities and your safety

DEFINITION OF FIRE

- Fire is a very rapid chemical reaction between oxygen and a combustible material, which results in the release of heat, light, flames, and smoke.



THE FOUR ELEMENTS OF FIRE

- For a fire to exist, the following four elements must be present:
 1. Enough oxygen to sustain combustion
 2. Enough heat to raise a material to its ignition temperature
 3. Fuel or combustible material
 4. The chemical reaction that is fire

RISK ASSESSMENT

- Is the fire in its incipient stage?
- What is your visibility?
- Is there a significant temperature change?
- What is burning ?
- Do you have a safe evacuation path ?

WHEN SHOULD YOU USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

- The fire is contained, hasn't spread to other materials and the flames are small
- The visibility in the room is still good
- The heat in the room is only slightly increased
- Burning material is known
- There is a clear pathway out of room

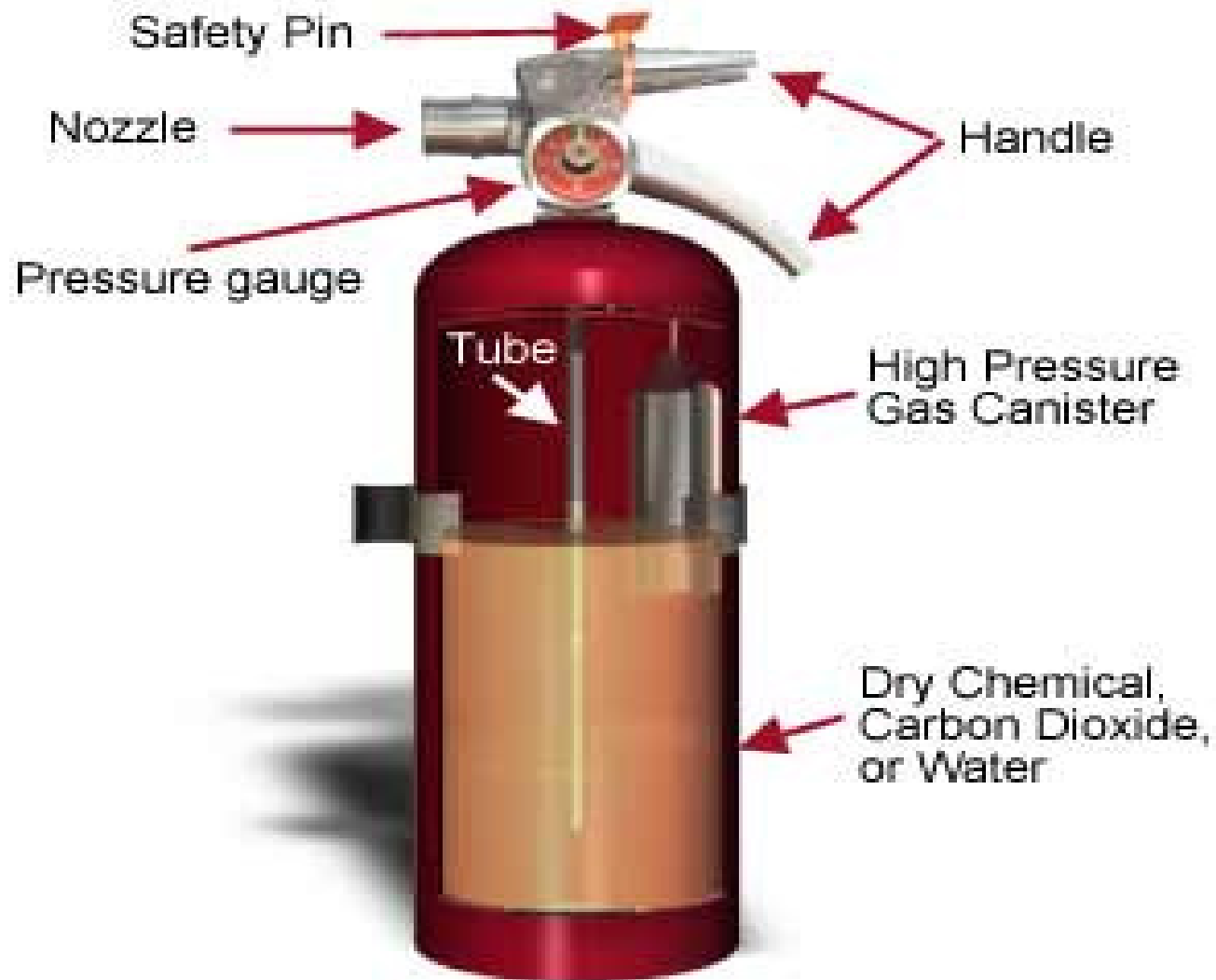
WHEN YOU SHOULD NOT USE AN EXTINGUISHER

- The fire has spread to other materials, large flames present
- Visibility is impaired
- Extreme temperature change easily felt outside of room
- Presence of unknown or dangerous materials
- Obstructed escape path; rapid deterioration of conditions within the room

HOW A FIRE EXTINGUISHER WORKS

- Portable fire extinguishers apply an extinguishing agent that will either cool burning fuel, displace or remove oxygen, or stop the chemical reaction so a fire cannot continue to burn.
- When the handles of an extinguisher are compressed, agent is expelled out the nozzle.

ANATOMY OF AN EXTINGUISHER



TYPES OF EXTINGUISHERS

TYPE A

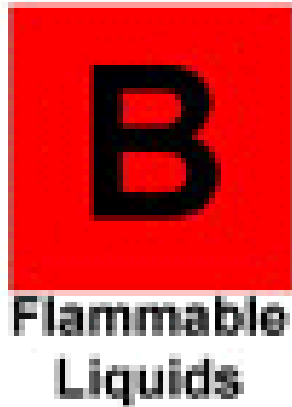
- Water: used for paper, cloth, wood, rubber, and many plastic fires



TYPES OF EXTINGUISHERS

TYPE B

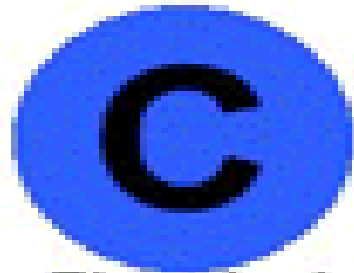
- CO2: used for oils, gasoline, some paints, lacquers, grease, solvents, and other flammable liquids



TYPES OF EXTINGUISHERS

TYPE C

- Dry Chemical: wiring, fuse boxes, energized electrical equipment, computers, and other electrical sources



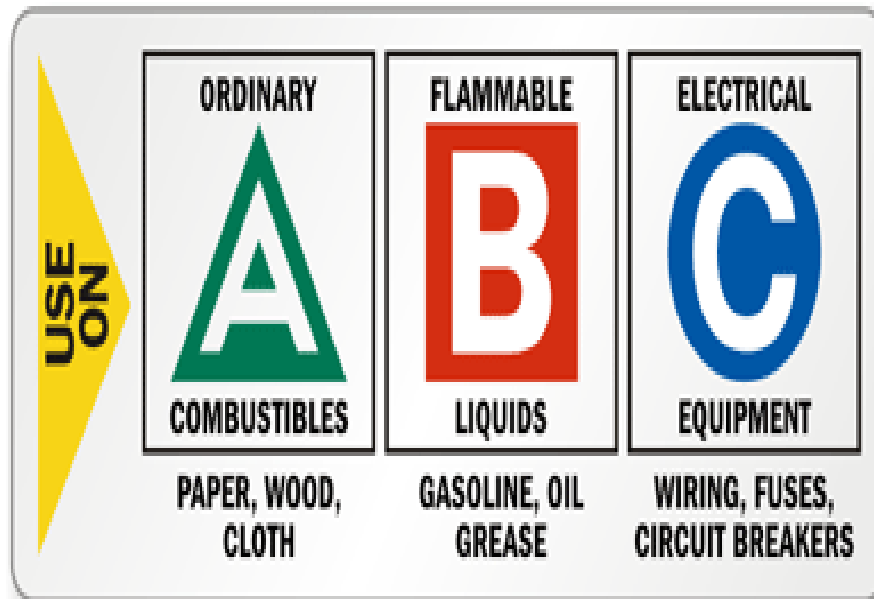
**Electrical
Equipment**



Types of Extinguishers

TYPE A-B-C

- Multi-Purpose: can be used all of the previous types of fires



TYPES OF EXTINGUISHERS

TYPE K

- Class K: can be used for fires involving combustible cooking fluids such as oils and fats (Dry & Wet Chemical Extinguishers)



TYPES OF EXTINGUISHERS

TYPE B-C

- B-C: can be used for flammable liquid or electrical fires



P.A.S.S.

Know the
*P*A*S*S*
Word



THE **PASS** METHOD

- 1) **P**ull the pin
- 2) **A**im at the base of the fire
- 3) **S**queeze the handles together to release extinguishing agent
- 4) **S**weep from side to side

IMPORTANT SAFETY

- If you have the slightest doubt about your ability to fight a fire, ... **EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY !**



VISUAL INSPECTION OF EXTINGUISHER

- Is each extinguisher in its proper place, clearly visible and not blocked by any obstructions ?
- Is the faceplate with operating instructions facing outward ?
- Does the pressure gauge show the needle is in the green area (indicating that the extinguisher is fully charged) ?
- Is the pin or tamper seal still intact ?

VISUAL INSPECTION OF EXTINGUISHER

- Does the extinguisher appear to be in good condition, showing no signs of physical damage, corrosion, or leakage ?
- If you did not answer **YES** for all of the above questions, have the extinguisher fixed or replaced immediately !
- Inform the Fire Safety Officer or Public Safety Department of any problems immediately

STEPS TO BE TAKEN WHEN USING AN EXTINGUISHER

- Pull the fire alarm
- Do your assessment
- Use the extinguisher
- Advise Molloy Public Safety and the Rockville Centre Fire Department of the exact location of the fire and what was involved

FIRE EXTINGUISHER INSPECTION

- The Fire Safety Officer is required to inspect every fire extinguisher on a monthly basis.
- The company that services the fire extinguishers are required to perform an annual inspection of all fire extinguishers.
- Check the extinguishers as you go about your regular duties and report any problems discovered to Public Safety.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- If you are using a CO2 extinguisher don't touch the discharge horn, it gets very cold and may damage your skin
- You must notify Public Safety to get a replacement extinguisher for the one used
- An incident report must be completed whenever an extinguisher is used
- Your safety and others depend on working extinguishers