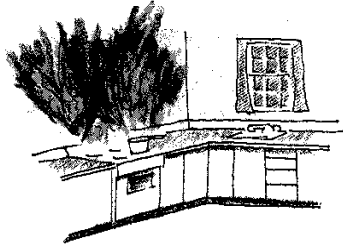


Extinguishers have their limits.

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the Fire Department arrives.

Portable extinguishers are not designed to fight a large or spreading fire. Even against small fires, they are useful only under the right conditions:



- An extinguisher must be large enough for the fire at hand. It must be available and in working order, fully charged.
- The operator must know how to use the extinguisher quickly, without taking time to read directions during an emergency.
- The operator must be strong enough to lift and operate the extinguisher.

Buy extinguishers carefully.

A fire extinguisher should be "listed" and "labeled" by an independent testing laboratory.

The higher the rating number on an A or B extinguisher, the more fire it can put out. But high-rated units are often the heavier models. Make sure you can hold and operate the extinguisher you are buying.

Remember that extinguishers need care and must be recharged after every use. A partially discharged unit might as well be empty.

Ask your dealer how your extinguisher is to be inspected and serviced.

Disposable fire extinguishers can be used only once. Then they must be replaced.

You may need more than one extinguisher. In your home, for example, you may want an extinguisher in the kitchen as well as one in the garage or workshop.

Each extinguisher should be installed in plain view near an escape route and away from potential fire hazards such as heating appliances. Ask your local Fire Department for advice on the best locations.

Many departments also offer training and practice in use of portable fire extinguishers.

Should you fight the fire?

Before you consider fighting a fire,

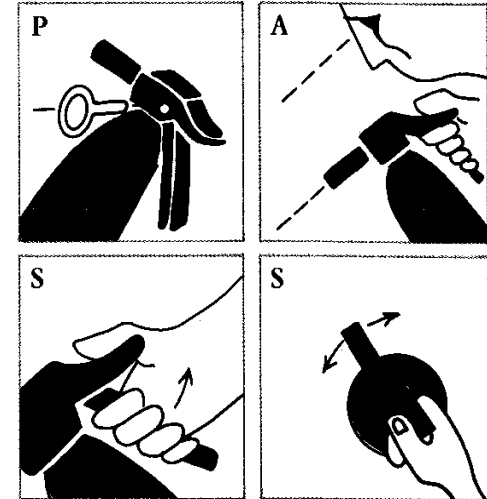
1. Make sure everyone has left the building or is leaving.
2. Make sure the Fire Department has been called.

Never fight a fire if *even one* of the following is true:

- if the fire is spreading beyond the immediate area where it started, or is already a large fire.
- if the fire could block your escape route
- if you are unsure of the proper operation of the extinguisher.
- if you are in doubt that the extinguisher you are holding is designed for the type of fire at hand or is large enough to fight the fire.

It is reckless to fight a fire with an extinguisher in any one of these cases. Instead, leave immediately, close off the area, and leave the fire to the Fire Department.

If you do fight the fire, remember the word: PASS



PULL the pin. . . . Some extinguishers require releasing a lock latch, pressing a puncture lever, or other motion.

AIM low . . . pointing the extinguisher nozzle (or its horn or hose) at the base of the fire.

SQUEEZE the handle. . . . This releases the extinguishing agent.

SWEEP from side to side . . . at the base of the fire until it appears to be out. Watch the fire area. If fire breaks out again, repeat use of the extinguisher.

Most portable extinguishers work according to these directions, but some do not. Read and follow the directions on your extinguisher—on each one if you have more than one make or model.

Protect yourself at all times! Stay low. Avoid breathing the heated smoke and fumes or the extinguishing agent.

If the fire starts to spread or threatens your escape route, get out immediately.