

FIRE EXTINGUISHER OPERATION AND TYPES OF FIRE

There are four steps one must know to operate a fire extinguisher. Remembering the word **PASS** will help you remember the steps to properly operate a fire extinguisher.

The PASS procedure is appropriate for the operation of all portable extinguishers.

- P** - Pull the pin. (breaking the tamper clasps)
- A** - Aim (aim the nozzle or hose of the extinguisher)
- S** - Squeeze the trigger (discharging agent)
- S** - Sweep the agent from side to side at the base of the fire.

Fires are generally categorized as either:

- A:** Fires which leave an ash such as paper or cloth
- B:** Flammable liquid, cooking oils or plastic
- C:** Fires of electrical origin

Extinguisher labels will indicate the types of fire the extinguisher will extinguish readily. The most common type of extinguisher is labeled with an "A B C", referred to as a "multi purpose dry chemical", and is appropriate for all three types of fire.

The proper use of a fire extinguisher for small fires can drastically reduce property damage, however fire fighting is inherently dangerous so if one chooses to extinguish a fire another person should be made aware of that intention and a clear exit path should be a priority. Remember, if one extinguisher does not get the job done, close the door and evacuate. The Fire Marshal is available to answer questions or provide training and may be reached at 806-743-2597 during business hours.