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.