

PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER OPERATION AND TYPES OF FIRE

There are four steps one must know to operate a fire extinguisher. The acronym **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 Low (aim the nozzle or hose of the extinguisher)
- S** - Squeeze the Handle (discharging agent)
- S** - Sweep Side to Side (sweep the agent from side to side at the base of the fire.

Fires are generally categorized as A, B or C:

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

The portable Fire Extinguisher label indicates the type of fire the extinguisher will extinguish readily. The most common extinguisher is the “multi-purpose” or “ABC”, appropriate on all three types of fires listed above. Portable fire extinguishers are a small fire defense only, such as fires contained to the object of origin, and may significantly reduce property damage due to fire and smoke.

Portable fire extinguisher firefighting is inherently dangerous, consider the acronym **RACE** if one chooses to extinguish a fire.

- R** – Rescue
- A** – Alert others, activate the fire alarm, call 911
- C** – Contain the fire by closing doors
- E** – Evacuate or if possible Extinguish;

Extinguish is listed last after life safety considerations including alerting others, calling 911, and having a way out without getting trapped by products of combustion. The Fire Marshal is available to answer questions or provide training, and may be reached at 806-743-2597 during business hours.