

BEVERLY HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

EXTINGUISHER 101



Fire Extinguisher Facts:

Each year, about 440 people in the U.S. have died trying to fight a fire with a fire extinguisher instead of getting out safely and calling the fire department. The reasons this happens, according to the National Fire Protection Association, are –

- They do not know how to properly use a fire extinguisher. Most people can not learn how to use a fire extinguisher by simply reading directions. Using a fire extinguisher properly requires training from professionals. It is even more difficult to read directions for the first time during an emergency.
- Not all fire extinguishers will work on all fires. Fire extinguishers are made for very small fires (no bigger than a trash can) that can be put out quickly.
- People try to fight fires for too long and are overcome by poisonous gases produced by the fire.
- The fire is bigger than the extinguisher that can put the fire out.
- Remember to stay calm and once fire is extinguished, never turn back to it just in case of flare ups.
- Using a fire extinguisher on a fire removes one of the 3 key elements for fire to exist. Mosting by cooling and smothering fire.

Remember P.A.S.S.

- P** - Pull pin or twist to break seal.
- A** - Aim at base of fire, not flame.
- S** - Squeeze lever to expel agent.
- S** - Sweep side to side. (steady motion)



Before deciding to fight a fire, be certain that:

- The Fire Department has been notified (Call 911)
- You know how to use your fire extinguisher.
- The fire is small and not spreading. Every minute the fire doubles in size, it is important that you know where your nearest extinguisher is located.
- You have the proper fire extinguisher for what is burning.
- Know where your nearest exit is, & always stand with an exit at your back.
- Stand 6-10 feet away from the fire, moving closer once the fire starts to diminish.
- Know that your fire extinguisher works. By giving a test squeeze.
- Be sure to watch the area for a few minutes to ensure it doesn't re-ignite.
- Always remember, "if in doubt, just get out!" Your safety is more important.
- Never assume a fire is out! Let the professional's verify.

Never Fight A Fire If:

- **The fire is spreading rapidly.** Only use a fire extinguisher when the fire is in it's early stages. If the fire is already spreading quickly, evacuate immediately and wait for fire department.
- **You don't know what is burning.** Unless you know what is burning, it will be difficult to know which extinguisher is needed for the job. Even if you have an ABC extinguisher, there could be something that will explode or produce highly toxic smoke.
- **You don't have the proper fire extinguisher.** The wrong type of extinguisher can be dangerous or have a life threatening reaction.
- **There is too much smoke or you are at risk of inhaling smoke.** Seven out of ten fire-related deaths occur from breathing poisonous gases produced by the fire.

Remember the Classifications of Fires and Best Extinguisher for Each Fire

Class A- (Ordinary Combustible Fires) such as paper, wood, fabrics, etc.

(Best Extinguisher: Water or Dry Chemical)

Class B- (Flammable Liquid Fires) such as oils, gasoline, thinners, etc.

(Best Extinguisher: Dry Chemical or Foam)

Class C- (Electrical Fires) such as powered computers, microwaves, etc.

(Best Extinguisher: Dry Chemical or CO2)

Class D- (Combustible Metal Fires) such as magnesium, titanium, etc.

(Best Extinguisher: Sodium Chloride based and Dry Chemical Mixture Powder)

Class K- (Grease Fires) such as fryer, kitchen fires which involve grease.

(Best Extinguisher: Wet Chemical)