

## LOSS CONTROL TOPIC

### FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

A fire extinguisher is a portable active fire protection device used to extinguish or control small fires. They are not intended for use in out of control fires that have reached ceiling height. Portable fire extinguishers should be kept within easy access of all employees.



## Fire extinguisher ratings

There are four types. Each extinguishes a specific type of fire. Newer fire extinguishers utilize a picture/labeling system to designate which types of fires they are to be used on. Older fire extinguishers are labeled with colored geometrical shapes with letter designations. The ratings are as follows:

CLASS A - for ordinary combustibles such as paper or wood

CLASS B - for flammable liquids, such as grease, oil, gasoline, etc.

CLASS C - for use on electrically energized fires

CLASS D - for use on flammable metals

For the majority of business office locations, a Class A fire extinguisher will be in service.

## How to use the extinguisher

To use a fire extinguisher, you should follow the easy steps below, known as the **PASS** system:

1. **PULL** the pin at the top of the extinguisher
2. **AIM** the nozzle toward the base of the fire
3. **SQUEEZE** the handle to discharge the extinguisher
4. **SWEEP** the nozzle back and forth at the base of the fire

## Inspections

Fire Extinguishers should be visually inspected monthly to assure the following:



The extinguisher is easily located



The extinguisher is fully charged with the pressure gauge needle in the "green" zone

The lock pin is in place



The nozzle is free of obstructions





## Source materials

National Association of Fire Equipment Distributors [www.nafed.org](http://www.nafed.org)

National Fire Protection Association [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

Good animated training site [www.fireextinguisher.com](http://www.fireextinguisher.com)

Fire Extinguisher 101 [www.fireextinguisher101.com](http://www.fireextinguisher101.com)

*These guidelines are intended to offer general suggestions for follow up and discussion and should not be considered a substitution for professional advice. You are strongly urged to seek the services of a professional fire protection maintenance company in these areas.*

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