

# FIRE EXTINGUISHERS



Portable fire  
extinguishers:  
Your first line of defence  
against small fires

## Fire extinguishers

Fire extinguishers do not replace the need to call Markham Fire and Emergency Services. Always call 9-1-1 when a fire occurs, even a small fire. Fire extinguishers are not designed to fight large or spreading fires.

## What type of fire extinguisher should I buy?

There are three basic classes of fire extinguishers. Fire extinguishers must be labelled to show the class of fire they can extinguish.

Class A:



Ordinary combustibles such as paper, wood, rubbish, drapes and upholstery.

Class B:



Flammable liquids such as gasoline, oils, solvents, paints and flammable gases.

Class C:



Electrical fires involving Class "A" or "B" materials and live electrical power - overheated wiring, fuse boxes, stoves, motors, etc.

The extinguisher must be tested and listed by The Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC). Look for the ULC label on the extinguisher.

## Warning!

If you use the wrong type of extinguisher, you can endanger yourself and even make the fire worse.

## Take care of your extinguishers

Extinguishers require regular care. Learn how to inspect your extinguisher by reading your operator's manual. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for maintenance.



Remember to recharge reusable extinguishers and replace disposable models after every use.

## Where should I install my extinguisher?

Extinguishers should be installed in plain view, above the reach of children, near an escape route, and away from stoves and heating appliances.

## When should I use my extinguisher to fight a fire?

You should use your extinguisher to fight a fire only if:

- the fire is not large or spreading
- occupants have been alerted
- everyone has left or is leaving the building
- 9-1-1 has been called
- you have a clear escape route that won't be blocked by fire
- you know how to operate your extinguisher and are aware of its capabilities

Don't fight a fire in any other circumstance. Leave the premises immediately, close off the area and call 9-1-1 from a neighbour's home.

# Remember P-A-S-S

## If you fight a fire, remember P-A-S-S



**PULL** out the locking pin, breaking the seal. Some extinguishers may use a different release device. Please refer to your operator's manual.

**AIM** the nozzle horn (or hose) at the base of the fire about 3 metres (10 feet) from the fire.



**SQUEEZE** the trigger handle all the way, releasing the extinguishing agent.

**SWEEP** the material discharged by the extinguisher from side to side, moving front to back, across the base of the fire until it appears to be out. Keep your eyes on the fire area. Repeat the process if the fire starts up again. Never turn your back on the fire even if you think it is out.



Most extinguishers operate according to the PASS method. Some extinguishers may not. Read your operator's manual for specific directions.

## KNOW HOW AND WHEN TO USE A PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER

In case of an emergency call Markham Fire & Emergency Services at 9-1-1

For more information, contact the Fire Prevention Division at (905) 415-7521, or visit our website at [www.city.markham.on.ca](http://www.city.markham.on.ca)



Information produced in this brochure is subject to change without notice. Produced by Markham Fire & Emergency Services 10/02