

## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Fire extinguishers are classified by the type of fire they can put out. It is important to select the proper fire extinguisher for each fire. Fire extinguishers are labeled with letters and/or pictures to indicate the type of fire which the extinguisher is most effective. Below are the three common classifications of fire and how they relate to each type of extinguisher.

- **Class A - Ordinary Combustibles**  
Examples include but are not limited to: cloth, paper, plastics, rubber and wood products.  
Class A fire extinguishers will typically display either a green triangle or wastebasket and campfire picture.
- **Class B – Flammable Liquids**  
Examples include but are not limited to: gasoline, greases, lacquers, oils and paints.  
Class B fire extinguishers will typically display either a red square or angled gasoline can picture.
- **Class C – Electrical Equipment**  
Examples include but are not limited to: appliances, computers, energized equipment, fuse boxes, televisions and wiring.  
Class C fire extinguishers will typically display either a blue circle or electrical cord and plug picture.

**There are four basic steps for proper operation and use of a fire extinguisher.**

**First, remember the word PASS**

- **PULL**  
Pull the pin. The pin is located at the top of the unit near the operating lever or button.
- **AIM**  
Aim low. Point the extinguisher's nozzle, horn or hose at the base of the fire.
- **SQUEEZE**  
Squeeze the lever (or press the button) above the handle to release the agent that puts out the fire.
- **SWEEP**  
Sweep from side to side. Aim at the base of the fire. Move carefully toward the fire if it seems to be going out.

Fire extinguishers can be purchased at most retail, hardware and/or fire extinguisher service centers in your area. The Cabarrus County Fire Marshal's Office encourages each household to have a working fire extinguisher. The recommended extinguisher for residential homes is an ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher.

**REMEMBER** before you decide to use a fire extinguisher make sure someone has called 911.  
**NEVER** put your life or someone else's at risk in attempting to extinguish a fire, if the fire grows too large, immediately evacuate outside and wait for fire department officials.



The Cabarrus County Fire Marshal's Office appreciates you taking the time to review these important fire safety tips. If you would like to request more information or speak with a representative please contact our office Monday through Friday (8 am to 5 pm) at 704-920-2143.