

Fire Extinguisher Operation

Fire Extinguisher Operation TBT 1/2/24

"PASS"

The steps to operating a portable fire extinguisher seem simple to remember. But when faced with a real fire, many people in this situation have reported their mind "goes blank". As a result many were unable to get the extinguisher to function properly, or they failed to extinguish the fire.

Toay we are going to review the four steps to follow when using a portable fire extinguisher.

"P" stands for "PULL" the pin.

The pin in the handle keeps you from accidentally discharging the extinguisher during normal handling, and must be removed for it to function. There should be a thin plastic break away or tamper seal holding the pin in place. It easily breaks when you pull out the pin.

"A" stands for "AIM" at the base of the fire.

This step is crucial because you must direct the extinguishing media towards the material/fuel that is actually burning so it can extinguish the flame.

"S" stands for "SQUEEZE" the handle.

This causes the extinguishing media to discharge from the extinguisher.

"S" stands for "SWEEP" from side to side.

Move the hose in a sweeping motion across the base of the fire as you approach, to make sue the extinguishing media completely covers the burning material and puts out the fire. Then, keep an eye on the area for a while in case the fire re-ignites.

Remember that you should never, ever, attempt to put out a fire with an extinguisher if you are unsure about your ability to do so safely and effectively!