

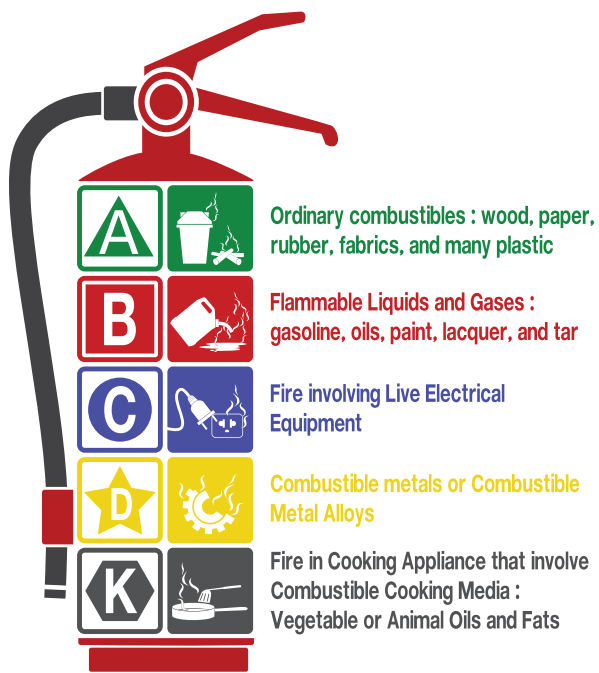
Fire Extinguisher Basics*



Intro

Whether it is a public building, apartment, or workplace, you will find fire extinguishers. The BC Fire Code provides requirements for the number and location of extinguishers required in buildings and businesses. In the workplace, fire extinguishers are tools, and it is essential to train any worker who might need to use one in their safe operation. Fire extinguishers are also good safety equipment for the home and car.

There are four classes of fire extinguishers based on the type of burning material they can extinguish:



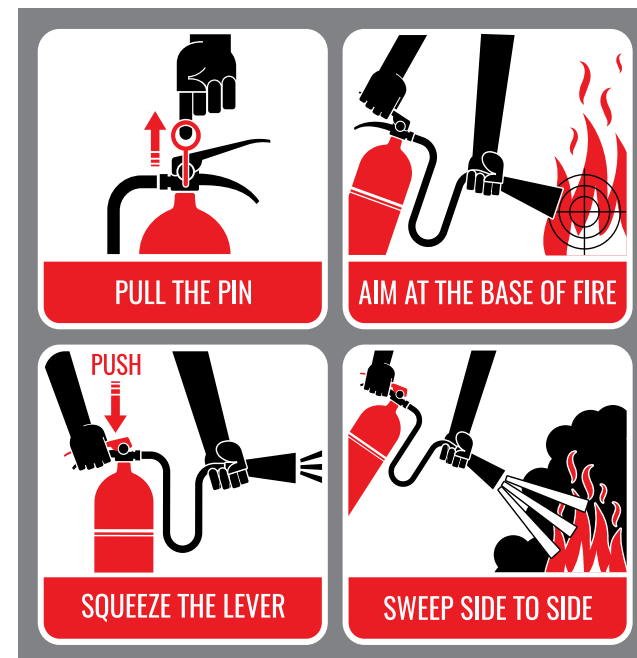
Most fire extinguishers are a 5, 10 or 20-pound size. These extinguishers usually have a gauge that quickly shows if the extinguisher has adequate pressure.

The best practice is to purchase one or more multipurpose ABC class extinguishers in the appropriate size. A significant benefit of an ABC extinguisher is that you do not have to worry if you have the proper extinguisher for the class of fire.

Essential points to consider before attempting to fight a fire are:

- Ensure the fire department is called and the fire area is evacuated immediately.
- Ensure there is another person with a second extinguisher to back you up.
- Ensure a safe, unobstructed exit route from the fire area for you and the backup person.
- Inexperienced users need to be aware of the time limitation of a fire extinguisher. A 5-pound extinguisher will discharge in approximately 10 seconds, a 10-pound extinguisher in 20 seconds, and a 20-pound in around 30 seconds.

When using a fire extinguisher, remember the acronym PASS:



For additional resources visit:

[B.C. Fire Code](#)

[NFPA 10](#) | Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers

