



FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Operating Portable Fire Extinguishers

A fire extinguisher is a vessel containing a fire retardant material such as water or chemicals. Fire extinguishers are first-aid fire fighting appliances designed to extinguish small fires. A small fire is a fire no larger than the size of a five (5) gallon bucket.

Extinguishers are labeled according to their capabilities for putting out fires in wood or paper, grease or gasoline, or energized electrical equipment. You will find the following symbols on fire extinguishers at UCDH.



CLASS A –

Class A extinguishers will put out fires for ordinary combustibles, such as wood and paper.



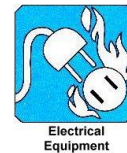
CLASS B –

Class B extinguishers are suitable for use on flammable liquids, such as grease, gasoline, oil, etc.



CLASS C –

Class C extinguishers are suitable for use on electrical fires.



- ✓ An “ABC” rated extinguisher will extinguish all three classes of fire.
- ✓ A “BC” rated extinguisher will extinguish class B and C fires only.

Operation of Portable Fire Extinguishers

You can operate most fire extinguishers using the P-A-S-S acronym:

Pull



Stand back from the fire and pull the pin.

Aim



Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire.

Squeeze



Squeeze the handles together.

Sweep



Sweep the nozzle from side to side at the base of the flames until the fire is completely extinguished.

P-A-S-S will work for most extinguishers. Become familiar with all fire extinguishers in your work area. Know where they are located and what type they are (class A, B, C or multipurpose). Use common sense. Sometimes a small fire ----- in a trash can, for example ----- can be put out by simply pouring a glass of water on it or covering it with a blanket. Extinguish it, after instructing another staff member to report it by dialing 911. A Fire Division representative will determine if the fire is completely extinguished. *Never leave a smoldering fire.*

Report the following to the UCDH Fire Marshal's Office:

- ✓ Discharged extinguishers
- ✓ Missing extinguisher
- ✓ Extinguisher gauges registering "recharge"