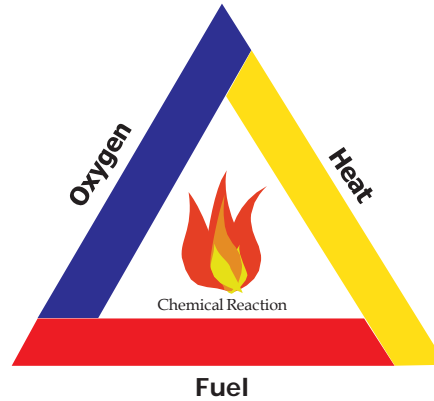


FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Environmental Health and Safety



THE FIRE TRIANGLE



These three things must be present at the same time to produce fire.

Fires are classified according to the type of fuel that is burning.

CLASSES OF FIRE	TYPES OF FIRE	PICTURE SYMBOL
A	Wood, paper, cloth, trash, and other ordinary materials.	
B	Gasoline, oil, paint, and other flammable liquids.	
C	May be used on fires involving live electrical equipment without danger to the operator.	
D	Combustible metals and combustible metal alloys.	
K	Cooking media (Vegetable or animal oils and fats).	

TYPES OF EXTINGUISHERS

WATER (APW) FIRE EXTINGUISHERS



Large silver fire extinguishers that stand about two feet tall and weigh about 25 pounds when full.



APW stands for "Air-Pressurized Water."



Filled with ordinary tap water and pressurized air, they are essentially large squirt guns.

APW's are designed for Class A fires only: wood, paper, cloth.

They are not to be used on flammable liquids, grease, or electrical fires.

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CARBON DIOXIDE AND HALON FIRE EXTINGUISHERS



CO2 and Halon cylinders are red. They range in size from 5 pounds to 100 pounds or larger. On larger sizes, the horn will be at the end of a long, flexible hose.



The pressure in a CO2 extinguisher is great, bits of dry ice may shoot out of the horn! Halon does not produce ice and is relatively clean. Both gases can deplete oxygen so care must be taken in confined spaces. The CO2 cylinders are under pressure so care must be taken when handling them

CO2 and Halon extinguishers are designed for Class B and C (Flammable liquids and electrical sources) fires only! These extinguishers are used in electrical rooms and in training.



DRY CHEMICAL (ABC) FIRE EXTINGUISHERS



“ABC” fire extinguishers are filled with a fine yellow powder. The greatest portion of this powder is composed of mono ammonium phosphate. The extinguishers are pressurized with nitrogen.



ABC extinguishers are red. On campus, they range in size from 5 to 20 pounds. These are the most common and will probably be what you would be using. They are found in all buildings on the Eastern Washington University campus.



CLASS D COMBUSTIBLE METAL FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Fires resulting from combustible metals, such as sodium, potassium, titanium, and magnesium. These fires occur mostly in chemical laboratories and are rare in most other environments.

WET CHEMICAL FIRE EXTINGUISHERS (TYPE K)



Wet chemical fire extinguishers are silver in color and only found in areas that need protection from grease fires. Kitchens are a great example. Even with a fire suppression system, a fire may rekindle or continue to burn from splashes in areas that are not protected with the fire suppression systems.

HOW TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

It is easy to remember how to use a fire extinguisher if you remember the acronym **PASS**.

1. **P**ull the pin: This will allow you to discharge the extinguisher.
2. **A**im: At the base of the fire
3. **S**queeze: This depresses a button that releases the pressurized extinguishing agent.
4. **S**weep: Sweep from side to side.

NOTE: Position yourself with an exit or means of an escape at your back **before** you attempt to use an extinguisher in case you lose control of the fire.



TRAINING IS NECESSARY BEFORE USING A FIRE EXTINGUISHER



Periodically inspect fire extinguishers near you to insure that they are properly maintained. The gauge should point to the green area and the tag should be in date. For example, if the tag is stamped June 2010, then the extinguisher will expire June 2011.



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