



The  
**ABC's**  
of Home  
Fire Extinguishers



**MISSISSAUGA**

*Leading today for tomorrow*

**Read the instructions label:  
An emergency is not  
the time to find out how  
an extinguishers works.**

### **Extinguisher Size**

Portable fire extinguishers are rated for the size of fire they can handle. Ratings will appear on the label of the extinguisher –

**For example 2A:10B:C.**

The larger the numerical rating, the larger the fire it can extinguish. Look for the ULC label (Underwriters Laboratories of Canada) on the extinguisher. We recommend a multipurpose (ABC) fire extinguisher rated 2-A 10-B,C or 3-A 40-B,C for the home.

### **Limitations**

It is important to know that fire extinguishers are not intended for large or spreading fires. A fire extinguisher can completely discharge in as little as six to ten seconds.

### **Location**

Locate fire extinguishers in easily seen and accessible locations—preferably near an exit and not within ten feet of a potential source of fire. Do not store in closets or under sinks.

### **Maintenance**

Once a month inspect your fire extinguisher for damage and make sure it is fully charged. (See manufacturer's instructions for details.) Fire extinguishers should be serviced by a qualified service company after each use, even if not fully discharged. (Look in the yellow pages under Fire Extinguishers.)

**When used properly, a portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until Fire & Emergency Services arrive.**

## **Only attempt to extinguish a fire if the following is in place:**

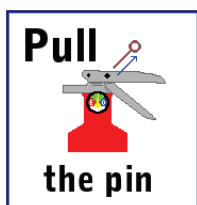
- Everyone has left, or is leaving the house and someone is calling the fire department by dialling 911.
- The fire is small, not spreading, and the smoke or heat does not pose a threat.
- Your extinguisher matches the type of fire you are attempting to fight.
- You have confidence in fighting the fire, and you are familiar with the use of the extinguisher.

**Remember: Don't get trapped by fire. Always keep your back to a clear exit.**



To operate your fire extinguisher, remember the word **“PASS”**

**P** – **Pull the locking** pin, twisting if necessary, to break the seal to unlock the lever.



**A** – **Aim low.** Point the extinguisher nozzle or hose at the base of the fire. (Stay a safe distance away.)



**S** – **Squeeze** the lever above the handle all the way to release the extinguishing agent.



**S** – **Sweep** the nozzle or hose from side to side across the base of the fire. If the fire reignites, reapply.



**Never turn your back on the fire – even if you think it is out; it may reignite.**

## There are three typical classes of fire you could encounter in your home.

(Make sure you have the right type of fire extinguisher for the right kind of fire.)

### **Class A: Ordinary combustibles**

Fires involving wood cloth, paper, and plastics etc.

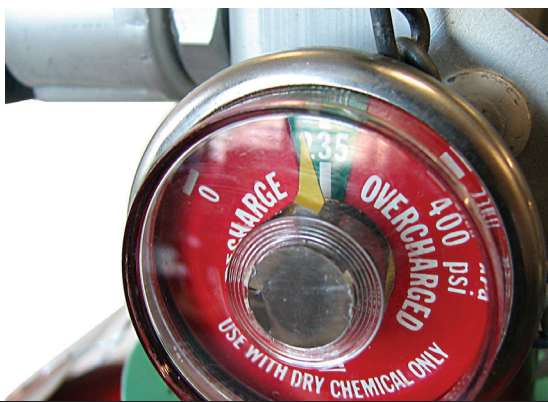
### **Class B: Flammable liquids and gases**

Fires involving gasoline, cooking oils, propane etc.

### **Class C: Charged electrical**

Fires involving live electrical power, such as power tools, wiring, fuse boxes, TVs, computers, etc.

**A fire extinguisher labelled ABC is a multi-purpose extinguisher and can be used on all three classes of fires.**





For further information, please call

**Mississauga**

**Fire & Emergency Services**

**Public Education**

**905-896-5908**

or visit us on our website

**<http://www.mississauga.ca/fire>**

