

FIRE EXTINGUISHER USE

HOT TIPS for Dealing with Fire

- Sound the fire alarm
- Call the fire department
- Keep your back to an escape path free of fire, heat, or smoke
- Get your fire extinguisher ready
 - Operate the extinguisher using the **P.A.S.S.** technique
 - **PULL** the pin to release the locking mechanism
 - **AIM** the hose nozzle at the fire's base
 - **SQUEEZE** the handle to spray the extinguishing agent
 - **SPRAY** from side to side at fire's base until it's out
- Back away from an extinguished fire in case it flames up again
- Evacuate immediately if:
 - the extinguisher is empty and the fire is not out
 - the fire progresses beyond the incipient stage
 - there's any doubt about your ability to fight the fire

Evaluate the Situation Before Fighting a Fire

- Is the fire small enough that you can put it out safely?
- Have you been trained to properly use a fire extinguisher?
- Is a fire extinguisher within easy reach?
- Is the air safe to breathe?
- Is there too much smoke and heat?
- Is the extinguisher fully charged and large enough?
- Will you be putting yourself or others at risk by staying to fight the fire?

FACTS

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, in a recent year there were nearly 1,300,000 fires in the U.S., and they caused nearly 3,300 deaths, 16,000 injuries, and nearly \$12 billion in losses/damages.



For more information on this and other safety topics, please log on to the member-exclusive website at nsc.org

Source: U.S. Fire Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency

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