

STRATHMORE FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

How to use a Fire Extinguisher

The best time to learn how to use the fire extinguisher is before you ever need it. It's easy to remember how to use a fire extinguisher if you can remember the acronym PASS which stands for Pull, Aim, Squeeze and Sweep.

Pull the Pin

This allows you to discharge the extinguisher.

Aim at the Base of the Fire

Avoid aiming at the flames. Instead, you want to smother the source of the fire. Aim at what is actually burning.

Squeeze the top handle or Lever

This releases the pressurized extinguishing agent in the extinguisher.

Sweep From Side to Side

Start using the extinguisher from a safe distance, then move forward attacking the fire, sweeping side to side as you work.



A typical five pound extinguisher will last approximately 10-15 seconds. If you cannot put out the fire in that time frame it is time to leave the building.

Placement of Portable Extinguishers

It is recommended that a minimum 5lb ABC (also known as a 3A-10BC) portable extinguisher is kept in the home including the garage. Secure extinguishers to a wall in a location away from hazards for easy access in the event of an emergency.

Maintenance

- Check your extinguisher gauge monthly for proper pressure.
- Portable extinguisher must be serviced after each use.
- It is recommended that a qualified person service the portable extinguisher every year.