

Fire Extinguisher Fact Sheet



A home with a working fire extinguisher is a FireSmart home. The *Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency* recommends every household purchases a fire extinguisher.

For the majority of house fires, fire departments instruct residents to exit the home immediately, dialing 9-1-1 when everyone is safely outside. However, fire safety equipment including fire extinguishers, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are proven to save lives if used and maintained correctly.

Classes of Fires:

- Class A – Fires involving ordinary combustibles such as paper, wood, cloth, rubber, or plastics.
- Class B – Fires involving flammable liquids, gases, oil, paints and lacquer.
- Class C – Fires involving energized (live) electrical equipment such as motors, appliances, or power tools.
- Class D – Fires involving combustible metals such as magnesium, titanium, sodium, and potassium.
- Class K – Fires involving combustible cooking oils, or fats in cooking appliances.

In a traditional home setting, the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency recommends the ABC 5lb 2A10BC fire extinguisher. This extinguisher is suitable for wood, paper, tissue, flammable liquids, and electrical fires. However, every home is different and it's important to consult your local fire department regarding your fire safety requirements.

When purchasing the fire extinguisher, check for a logo of an accredited product safety agency such as the *Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC)*.

This logo ensures that the fire extinguisher meets fire safety standards.

Always follow the manufacture's instructions and inspect it once a month, as well as having the extinguisher inspected by a certified technician once a year.

PASS Fire Extinguisher Method:

- PULL the pin.
- AIM the nozzle at the base of the fire.
- SQUEEZE the trigger.
- SWEEP the extinguisher from side to side to smother the fire.

After becoming familiar with the PASS method, understanding when and how to operate the extinguisher safely in the home is crucial to ensuring the safety of your family.

Important things to remember:

- Know when to stop. If your fire extinguisher has not extinguished the fire, exit the home immediately, closing the exit door behind you.
- Always install the fire extinguisher near the back or exit door.
- Only use a fire extinguisher for small fires.
- Never let the fire get between yourself and the exit.
- Only use a fire extinguisher when necessary. For example, if a pot on the stove catches fire, place the lid on top of the pot until it has cooled. Fires need oxygen to spread.