

Fire extinguisher use and selection.



Fire extinguishers are the first line of defense in any fire. Selecting the right extinguisher for a situation and knowing how to use it is important for both life and property safety.

Selecting the right kind of extinguisher is based on the type of fire you're dealing with. NFPA classifies fires as follows:

- A – Wood, paper, plastic, cloth
- B – Flammable liquids, grease, gas, oils
- C – Electrical
- D – Combustible metals

Each extinguisher is designed to put out a certain class of fire, so the selection of the correct extinguisher is very important.

There are four types of extinguishers:

1. Water – liquid
2. CO2 – Gas
3. ABC – Dry chemical
4. "K" – Wet-based chemical

Selection of the correct extinguisher is very important.

The chart below can help you select the right extinguisher for specific classes of fires.

Fire Class/ Extinguisher Type	A	B	C	D
Water	Y	N	N	N
CO2	N	Y	Y	Y
ABC	Y	Y	Y	N
"K"	Y	Y	N	N

Additional fire extinguisher tips.

- The “K” extinguisher gets its name because it is specifically designed for use in commercial kitchens (hence the “K”) as a back up to the suppression systems.
- Fire extinguishers are used to slow the growth of a fire to give additional time for the fire department to respond to a call.
- When using an extinguisher, keep yourself between the fire and the exit so you don’t get trapped by the fire.
- Properly place fire extinguishers throughout the facility so they are easily accessible.
- Consult your local fire department, fire marshal, or professional extinguishing contractor to assist you in identifying locations for extinguishers.
- Properly service the fire extinguishers according to manufacturer’s recommendations so they are ready in the event of a fire.
- Provide training to employees on fire hazards and extinguisher use.



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