Follow this guidance to prepare to use a fire extinguisher safely.

**TYPES OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

The types of fire extinguishers are based on the *fuel source* of the fire.

- **Type A**: Ordinary combustibles (e.g., trash, wood, paper, cloth, plastic, etc.)
- **Type B**: Flammable liquids and gases
- **Type C**: Energized Electrical equipment
- **Type D**: Combustible metals
- **Type K**: Oils and fats

**USE IT SAFELY**

**Preplan** by locating fire extinguishers and reviewing their applications. Find out:

- What type(s) of fire extinguishers are available?
- Which types of fuel sources are nearby?

**When a fire occurs**, call 9-1-1 or pull a fire alarm to alert the fire department upon identifying a fire.

Always **keep a clear exit path**.

- Always be evaluating changing fire conditions.
- Fire conditions can change rapidly.

Ensure fire is **small** and **localized**.

- A portable fire extinguisher is designed for small, localized fires in their early stages.
- Do **not** fight a fire that is growing or spreading rapidly.

**Stay upwind** from the fire.

If windy conditions are present, position yourself upwind from the fire to reduce smoke inhalation and increase fire extinguisher efficiency.

Maintain a **safe distance**.

The safe distance is indicated on the fire extinguisher label.

**Remember to PASS:**

- **Pull** the pin.
- **Aim** the nozzle at the fire’s base.
- **Squeeze** the operating lever.
- **Sweep** the nozzle side to side.

Take the [Fire Extinguisher Online Training Course](https://www.ehs.washington.edu) to learn more about using a fire extinguisher. Contact EH&S at 206.685.0341 with questions.