

P.A.S.S.

When to Fight a Fire

You should fight a fire with a fire extinguisher only when all of the following are true:

- Everyone has left or is leaving the building.
- The fire department has been called.
- The fire is small and confined to the immediate areas where it started such as in a wastebasket, cushion, small appliance, stove, etc.
- You can fight the fire with your back to a safe escape route.
- Your extinguisher is rated for the type of fire you are fighting and is in good working order.
- You have had training in use of the extinguisher and are confident that you can operate it effectively.
- Remember, if you have the slightest doubt about whether or not to fight the fire - **DON'T**. Instead, get out, closing the door behind you to slow the spread of the fire.

Basic steps for using a portable fire extinguisher:

P - Pull the safety pin

A - Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire, from a safe distance (about 4 to 10 feet away)

S - Squeeze the handle

S - Sweep the nozzle from side to side while aiming at the base of the fire