

## Using A Fire Extinguisher

To use a fire extinguisher, remember the acronym **PASS**:

- **P**ull: The pin
- **A**im: At the base of the fire
- **S**queeze: The handles together
- **S**weep: From side to side

Note: Always have an exit or means of escape at your back in case you lose control of the fire. Know at least 2 ways to get out of the building before starting to fight the fire.

1. HOLD EXTINGUISHER UPRIGHT AND PULL THE RING (SAFETY) PIN



2. STAND BACK FROM THE FIRE AND AIM AT THE BASE OF THE FIRE NEAREST YOU



3. SQUEEZE HANDLES TOGETHER AND SWEEP THE EXTINGUISHER STREAM SIDE TO SIDE

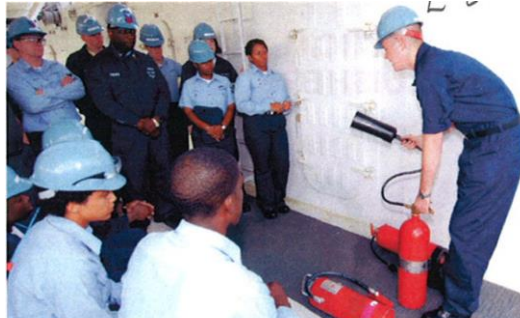


REMEMBER THIS SIMPLE WORD -  
**P A S S**

**PULL AIM SQUEEZE SWEEP**

## Fire Extinguisher Training

Training is required before using a fire extinguisher. Contact Environmental Health & Safety for training dates and times if you would like to be able to use a fire extinguisher.



## Inspecting Fire Extinguishers

Periodically check the fire extinguishers near you to make sure they are properly maintained. The gauge should point to the green area and the tag should be in date. For example, the tag below is stamped Aug 2016 so the extinguisher expires Aug 2017.



Fire extinguishers must remain accessible and visible! (Don't put things on or in front of them.)

**Environmental Health & Safety**  
002 Martin Hall, Cheney, WA 99004  
P: 509.359.6496 | F: 509.359.4690  
sites.ewu.edu/ehs

# FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

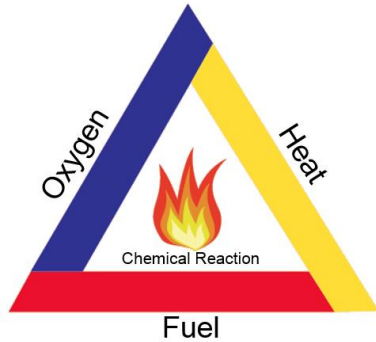


Environmental Health & Safety



**EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**  
start something **big**

## The Fire Triangle



Oxygen, heat, and fuel are all required, at the same time, to start a fire. Removing any one component will stop the fire.

Fires are classified according to the type of fuel that is burning.

Class of Fire	Pictogram	Burning Material
		Ordinary solid materials: wood, paper, cloth, trash...
		Flammable liquids: gasoline, oil, paint...
		Energized electrical equipment: appliances, wiring, outlets...
	Used infrequently 	Combustible metals and metal alloys: sodium, potassium...
		Cooking media: cooking oils and fats

## Dry Chemical (ABC)



ABC fire extinguishers are filled with a fine yellow powder and are pressurized with nitrogen.



ABC extinguishers are found in all buildings on campus. They range from 5 to 20 pounds in size and are red containers.



The powder is corrosive. It can destroy electrical equipment and has to be specially cleaned when it is discharged.

## Dry Powder (Class D)



Class D fire extinguishers are only used on flammable metals. They are yellow in color and found in some shops and labs on campus.

**Class D extinguishers must ONLY be used on burning metals!**

Class D extinguishers work by creating a crust over the fire that excludes air and dissipates heat. To use them, spray a perimeter around the fire and then work in to completely cover the flames.

Always remember, class D fires can spread very rapidly and extreme care must be taken if they are to be fought.

## Carbon Dioxide and Halon



**Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)** fire extinguishers are under high pressure, so care must be taken when handling them. The pressure can cause chunks of dry ice to shoot out of the horn. CO<sub>2</sub> will displace oxygen so use in confined spaces is not advised.



**Halon** is relatively clean, low pressured and does not produce ice. However, halon depletes the ozone and so it is no longer manufactured.

CO<sub>2</sub> and Halon are designed for Class B and C fires. These extinguishers are used on campus in trainings and in electrical rooms.

## Wet Chemical (Type K)



Wet chemical fire extinguishers are silver in color and found only in areas that could have grease fires. On campus they are found in dining services kitchens.

These extinguishers create a mist of salt over the fire which helps to cool the fire and doesn't cause the grease to splash. If they need to be used the entire contents of the extinguisher should be emptied onto the flaming material.