

# St. John's Regional Fire Department

## Home Fire Extinguishers





## General Fire Safety

- Make sure you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside every sleeping area. For maximum protection, place an alarm in each bedroom.
- Check the batteries in your smoke alarm monthly and replace as necessary. Better yet, replace your alarms with long-life, lithium battery-powered alarms. These alarms have a hush feature to silence nuisance alarms caused by cooking smoke or shower steam.
- Draw a fire escape plan using a floor plan of your home including all doors and windows. Determine at least two exits from every room. Designate a meeting place outside the house where everyone can gather after exiting.
- Practice the plan with your Children, preferably at night.
- In case of an actual fire, get everyone out before calling 9-1-1 from your cell phone or a neighbor's phone.
- Instruct small children about the dangers of playing with lighters, matches, and/or any other type of fire.
- Teach your child how to call for help in emergencies.
- Reward an understanding of safety regarding fire.
- Know how to extinguish small fires on the kitchen stove. (Simply sliding a lid over a skillet of burning grease often will extinguish a pan fire.)





## Portable Fire Extinguishers

Used properly, a portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small, contained fire or containing it sufficiently to allow escape.

Fire extinguishers are considered first aid equipment for controlling and putting out small fires before they become large ones. However, they are no substitute for the fire department. Having the proper fire extinguisher, as well as knowing how to use it and how not to use it is important in safeguarding your family and your household.

The Class may be listed on the extinguisher by the letters A, B or C, or by symbols known as pictograms.

There are different types of fire extinguishers that can be used on different types of fires. The most common types of fires in the home are:



### Class A

Ordinary things that can burn such as paper, wood, cardboard and most plastics.



### Class B

Flammable liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, grease and oil.



### Class C

Electrical equipment such as wiring, appliances, computers and outlets.

## What Type of Fire Extinguisher Do I Choose?

- A 2.27 kg (5 pound) multi-purpose dry chemical class ABC extinguisher is recommended for the home.
- The smallest extinguisher you should have in your home is a 1.13 kg (2.5 pound)
- The size of the extinguisher is directly related to the size of fire it can extinguish.
- Choose an extinguisher that is certified by a recognized testing laboratory such as ULC

## Where Should I Mount the Extinguishers?

- They should be installed where the potential risk of fire is greatest. Kitchen, laundry room, garage or workshop.
- In a visible area.
- High on the wall out of the reach of children.
- Near an exit.
- Away from heat sources.
- Avoid placing it near where a fire may occur, for example, the stove, as smoke and flames may prevent you from reaching it.





### How to Use a Fire Extinguisher:

Most extinguishers will use the **PASS** method:

**P** – Pull the pin

**A** – Aim the nozzle

**S** – Squeeze the handle

**S** - Sweep the extinguisher back and forth

### Please Note

- You should check manufacturer's instructions before using an extinguisher.
- Only adults should handle and use extinguishers

### For more information contact: Fire Prevention Division

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Central Fire Station  
St. John's, NL  
1-709-576-3905

[FirePrevention@StJohns.ca](mailto:FirePrevention@StJohns.ca)

[SJRFD.ca](http://SJRFD.ca)



**PULL SAFETY PIN**



**AIM AT THE BASE OF FIRE**



**SQUEEZE THE LEVER**



**SWEEP SIDE TO SIDE**

