How to Use A Fire Extinguisher

Fire extinguishers are only to be used if the fire is small. You should be an adult--and only use an extinguisher if you have been trained, started the evacuation AND have called 911. Put your extinguisher in a place that is easy to find. Otherwise, time spent searching will allow the fire time to spread and become too big for the extinguisher to do its job.

Note: Do NOT use water on grease or electrical fires!

Multipurpose fire extinguishers with an A-B-C label may be used on all three types of fires.

The 2A10BC dry chemical extinguisher is the most common size (about 5 lbs.), and it works on almost every kind of fire (A, B & C). Check the label of your extinguisher before a fire to know what you can use it on. For example, a pan of grease is a class B fire. An ABC extinguisher is great.
A red slash through any of the symbols indicates you should NOT use that extinguisher on that class of fire. A missing symbol tells you that the extinguisher hasn't been tested on that class of fire.

**When to Use an Extinguisher**

Don't forget, fire extinguishers aren't made to do the job of a firefighter. If a fire is too hot, has lots of dangerous smoke, or is starting to spread--get out and call 911. If you have difficulty hearing, you may text directly to 911 in Denver. Call if you can, text if you must.

Only use a fire extinguisher if:

- You have called 911 first (You want the firefighters on the way before it gets too big!)
- You know how to operate it
- You are not in danger from smoke or fire
- You have a clear escape route in case the fire spreads
- The extinguisher class matches the class of fire you're fighting
- The extinguisher is large enough to handle the fire
- REMEMBER **P.A.S.S.**

**PULL**

**AIM**

**SQEEZE**

**SWEEP**

**DIAL 911** – EVEN IF THE FIRE IS COMPLETELY OUT, THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CAN MAKE SURE YOU ARE SAFE AND ASSIST WITH SMOKE REMOVAL.

**EVACUATE AND DIAL 911** - IF THE FIRE STARTS TO GET OUT OF CONTROL OR YOUR EXTINGUISHER RUNS OUT BEFORE THE FIRE IS OUT.