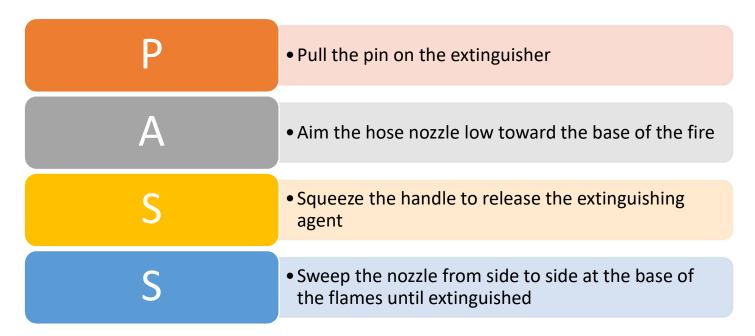# Fire Extinguisher - User tips

Tips – to use fire extinguisher -- ABC and CO2.

Type / Extinguisher	CLASS A Combustible materials (e.g. paper & wood)	CLASS B Flammable liquids (e.g. paint & petrol)	CLASS C Flammable gases (e.g. butane and methane)	CLASS D Flammable metals (e.g. lithium & potassium)	Electrical Electrical equipment (e.g. computers & generators)	CLASS F Deep fat fryers (e.g. chip pans)	Comments
Water	✔	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	Do not use on liquid or electric fires
Foam	✔	✔	✘	✘	✘	✘	Not suited to domestic use
Dry Powder	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	Can be used safely up to 1000 volts
CO2	✘	✔	✘	✘	✔	✘	Safe on both high and low voltage
Wet Chemical	✔	✘	✘	✘	✘	✔	Use on extremely high temperatures

The different types of extinguisher tackle different types of fire

Source: Surey Fire& Safety ltd., UK Website: http://surreyfire.co.uk/types-of-fire-extinguisher/

To use Fire extinguisher:

P	• Pull the pin on the extinguisher
A	• Aim the hose nozzle low toward the base of the fire
S	• Squeeze the handle to release the extinguishing agent
S	• Sweep the nozzle from side to side at the base of the flames until extinguished

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If any of the following conditions are present, workers should follow evacuation procedures immediately and should not attempt to fight the fire with an extinguisher:

The fire is too large. The fire involves flammable solvents, is partially hidden behind a wall or ceiling, cannot be reached from a standing position, or covers more than 60 square feet in area.

The air is unsafe to breathe. Levels of smoke make the fire impossible to fight without some form of respiratory protection.

The environment is too hot or smoky. Radiated heat is easily felt, making it hard to approach a fire within adequate range of using the extinguisher (about 10-15 feet). It is necessary to crawl on the floor to avoid heat or smoke. Visibility is poor.

Evacuation paths are impaired. The fire is not contained and heat, smoke or flames block potential evacuation routes.

(Source: Safety + Health National, 2018
Website: http://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/print/5549-properly-using-a-fire-extinguisher-in-the-workplace)