



## Operating Portable Fire Extinguishers

A fire extinguisher is a vessel containing a fire retardant material such as water or chemicals. Fire extinguishers are first-aid fire fighting appliances designed to extinguish small fires. A small fire is a fire no larger than the size of a five (5) gallon bucket. Extinguishers are labeled according to their capabilities for putting out fires in wood or paper, grease or gasoline, or energized electrical equipment. You will find the following symbols on fire extinguishers at both the UC Davis campus and the UC Davis Medical Center:

**CLASS A:** Will put out fires in ordinary combustibles, such as wood and paper.



**CLASS B:** Suitable for use on flammable liquids, such as grease, gasoline, oil, etc.



**CLASS C:** Suitable for use on electrical fires.



- A **“BC”** rated extinguisher will extinguish class B and C fires only.
- An **“ABC”** rated extinguisher will extinguish all three classes of fire.

## Directions for Operating Portable Fire Extinguishers

You can operate most fire extinguishers following four simple steps that are easily remembered using the acronym P-A-S-S:

**PULL**



Stand back from the fire and pull the pin.

**AIM**



Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire.

**SQUEEZE**



Squeeze the handles together.

**SWEEP**



Sweep from side to side at the base of the flames.

P-A-S-S will work for most extinguishers. Become familiar with all fire extinguishers in your work area. Know where they are located and what type they are (Class A, B, C, or multi-purpose). Use common sense. Sometimes a small fire (ex. corridor trash bin fire), can be put out by simply pouring a glass of water on it or covering it with a blanket. Extinguish it, but only **after** instructing another staff member to report it by dialing 9-1-1.

All fires must be reported, regardless of the size. A Fire Department representative will determine if the fire is completely extinguished. **Never leave a smoldering fire.**

Report the following to the UC Davis Fire Department by dialing **(530)752-1236** on the UC Davis campus or **(916)734-3036** at the UC Davis Medical Center.

1. Discharged extinguishers.
2. Missing extinguishers.
3. Extinguisher gauges registering "recharge".

Please call the UC Davis Fire Department Fire Prevention Unit at (530) 752-1236 if you have any additional questions. Dial **9-1-1** for emergencies.