



Hanover Park Fire Department



FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

How to:

- Choose
- Use
- Dispose
- Replace

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the #1 priority for residents is to **GET OUT SAFELY**.





CHOOSING A Fire Extinguisher

It is important to understand that with proper training and education, fire extinguishers can save lives and property.

Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory, such as “UL Listed” or “ULC Listed.”

For the home, select a multipurpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.

Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out.



Did you know:

There are 5 primary types of fire extinguishers, water, carbon dioxide, dry chemical or wet chemical, each designed to put out different kinds of fires.



For use with **ordinary materials like cloth, wood and paper.**



For use with **combustible and flammable liquids like grease, gasoline, oil and oil-based paints.**



For use with **electrical equipment like appliances, tools or other equipment that is plugged into an outlet.**



For use with **flammable metals,** such as Magnesium or Aluminum.



For use with **vegetable oils, animal oils and fats** in cooking appliances.

There are multipurpose fire extinguishers that might be labeled "B-C" or "A-B-C" that can be used on most types of home fires. Most home improvement stores carry multipurpose fire extinguishers



USING A FIRE EXTINGUISHER



Safety Tips:

- Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined
 - to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing;
 - everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been
 - called or is being called; and the room is NOT filled with smoke.
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- Fire extinguishers should be installed close to an exit. Keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.

How to Decide When to Use a Fire Extinguisher:

- ✓ Have I alerted others in the building that there is a fire?
- ✓ Has someone called the fire department?
- ✓ Am I physically able to use a fire extinguisher? Young children and older adults should not use fire extinguishers.
- ✓ Is the fire small and contained in a single object or to a surface (like a pan or a wastebasket)?
- ✓ Am I safe from the fire's toxic smoke?
- ✓ Do I have a clear escape route?

Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a Home Fire Escape Plan and working smoke alarms.



When operating a fire extinguisher, remember:



PROPER STEPS FOR USE:



PULL SAFETY PIN



AIM AT THE BASE OF FIRE



SQUEEZE THE LEVER



SWEEP SIDE TO SIDE



Fire Extinguisher Maintenance is Important!

MAKE SURE YOU CHECK YOUR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS FOR:

- **Easy access in an emergency** - Be sure nothing is blocking or limiting your ability to reach it.
- **The recommended pressure level** - Many extinguishers have gauges that show when pressure is too low or too high.
- **Working parts** - Make sure the can, hoses and nozzles are not damaged, dented or rusted.
- **Cleanliness** - Remove any dust, oil or grease that might be on the outside of the extinguisher.
- **Guidelines and instructions** - Some extinguishers need to be shaken monthly; others need to be pressure tested every few years. You can recharge some fire extinguishers while others will need to be replaced if the pressure is too low.





When to Replace a Fire Extinguisher



Fire extinguishers do not have a definitive expiration date, but they typically last 10-12 years. If you are unsure how old your fire extinguisher is or inherited one in a new property, replacing it is the safest option.

You can inspect your fire extinguisher to determine if it needs replacement. Confirm that it is placed in a readily accessible area. Next, look for damage or disrepair. The hose, nozzle, handle and locking pin should all be in place and have no cracks or damage.

The pressure gauge should be in the **green** section, which indicates the fire extinguisher is fully pressurized. Minor damage or factory errors could cause fire extinguishers to release pressure over time, which diminishes its effectiveness in an emergency.

Signs your fire extinguisher should be replaced include:

- Pressure gauge displays in the yellow or red section.
- Outer damage such as broken handle, cracked nozzle, split hose or a missing locking pin.
- The fire extinguisher is more than 10 years old.
- The fire extinguisher has been used.

Most fire extinguishers can only be used once. Some models are rechargeable and can be serviced by a professional after each use. However, many people do not have access to the equipment necessary to refill and repressurize a fire extinguisher. In that case, the extinguisher must be properly recycled.



Where to Dispose of Fire Extinguishers



Fire extinguishers contain chemicals unsafe for typical waste management plants, and they should be disposed of at a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility.

Household Hazardous Waste Facility

156 Fort Hill Drive
Naperville, IL 60540
(630) 420-6095

Hours of Operation: Saturdays and Sundays
9 a.m. - 2 p.m., excluding holidays

The Household Hazardous Waste facility in Naperville is open and available to all residents of Illinois at no charge. No appointment is necessary.

Household hazardous waste items are materials purchased for cleaning or maintaining a home. Business waste is not accepted.

More details can be found at: www.naperville.il.us



Fire Extinguisher Services

Many fire equipment dealers can recharge and service fire extinguishers. Listed below are some local companies to contact.

Fredriksen Fire Equipment
555 Pond Drive
Wood Dale, IL 60191
630.595.9500
www.fredriksenfire.com

Cintas
11 Eisenhower Lane South
Lombard, IL 60148
630.454.6361
www.cintas.com

USA Fire Protection
28427 North Ballard, Unit H
Lake Forest, IL 60045
847.816.0050
www.usafireprotectioninc.com

Fox Valley Fire & Safety
2730 Pinnacle Drive
Elgin, IL 60124
847.695.5990
www.foxvalleyfire.com

Service Fire Equipment Company
1485 Landmeier Rd., Suite K
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
847.364.9390

Fire Extinguishers Chicago
1697 Imperial Court
Mount Prospect, IL 60056
630.530.3560

Assurance Fire & Safety, Inc.
225 James St., Unit 9
Bensenville, IL 60106
630-239.2719
www.fireprotectionequipbensenville.com



Final Notes

Portable Fire Extinguishers and Children

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) believes that children should not be trained to operate portable fire extinguishers. Teaching children to use portable fire extinguishers runs counter to NFPA messaging to get out and stay out if there is a fire. In addition, children may not have the maturity to operate a portable fire extinguisher properly or decide whether or not a fire is small enough to be put out by an extinguisher. They may not have the physical ability to handle the extinguisher or dexterity to perform the complex actions required to put out a fire. In the process of extinguishing flames, children may not know how to respond if the fire spreads. NFPA continues to believe that only adults who know how to operate portable fire extinguishers should use them.

*The information used in this booklet can be found at:
National Fire Protection Association (npfa.org)
U.S. Fire Administration (www.usfa.fema.gov)
Home Depot (www.homedepot.com)*





GET IN TOUCH

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

HANOVER PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT



630.823.5800



www.hpil.org



6850 Barrington Road – Station 15
2355 Schick Road – Station 16



