

## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Read the instructions on your extinguisher for proper use.

Create a picture in your mind that will reflect the instructions on the extinguisher:

- if there's a fire, get everyone outside and ask a member of your family to call the fire department from a neighbor's house.
- Only then should you permit yourself to fight a small fire.

If the fire becomes large, get out. Close doors behind you to slow the spread of the fire.

### The ABCD's of Portable Fire Extinguishers

A fire extinguisher is a storage container for an agent like water or chemicals.

It is designed to put out a small fire, not a large one.

Extinguishers are labelled ABC or D. Ensure you use the right extinguisher for the appropriate type of fire.

#### A. Ordinary Combustibles

Fires started with paper, wood, drapes and upholstery require a Class A type extinguisher.

#### B. Flammable and Combustible Liquids

Fires originating from fuel oil, gasoline, paint, grease in a frying pan, solvents and other

flammable liquids require a Class B type extinguisher.

#### C. Electrical Equipment

Fires started with wiring, overheated fuse boxes, conductors, and other electrical sources require a Class C type extinguisher.

#### D. Metals

Certain metals such as magnesium and sodium require a special dry powder Class D type extinguisher.

A multi-purpose dry chemical labeled ABC puts out most types of fires: wood, paper, cloth, flammable liquids and electrical fires.

If you intend to buy more than one, you may want to purchase a BC for the kitchen, an A for the living room and an ABC for the basement and garage.

#### Buying and Maintaining an Extinguisher

Extinguishers come in a dry chemical, foam, carbon dioxide, water, or Halon form. Whatever type you buy, it should be labeled by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.

The higher the number rating on the extinguisher, the more fire it puts out.

Ask your dealer how to have your extinguisher serviced and inspected.

**Recharge it after ANY use.** A partially used extinguisher might as well be

empty.

Extinguishers should be installed near an escape route and away from potential fire hazards.

### LEARN HOW TO PASS

1. Pull the pin. Some units require the releasing of a lock latch, pressing a puncture lever, inversion or other motion.
2. Aim the extinguisher nozzle (horn) at the base of the fire.
3. Squeeze or press the handle.
4. Sweep from side-to-side at the base of the fire and discharge the contents of the extinguisher.

## **DANGER! GASOLINE**

Facts you should know to prevent explosion and fire from gasoline vapors.

Gasoline can be more dangerous than dynamite because it emits invisible, explosive vapors that ignite easily, even at low temperatures.

Vapor from gasoline is also heavier than air and so travels close to the floor where it can easily come into contact with sparks from electric motors, water heaters, furnace motors and switches.

Sparks or open flames can ignite vapors a great distance from their source.

By law, gasoline must be stored in safety containers which have been approved by a nationally recognized and certified agency.

Approved containers display these labels prominently.

However, care must be taken even though these containers are designed to prevent spillage.

Minor gasoline spills should be cleaned up immediately.

Anyone using or storing gasoline should keep an appropriate Class B fire extinguisher (Class ABC is recommended) nearby since it is designed to extinguish gasoline or other flammable liquid fires.

**NEVER store gasoline in basements, pits or other confined areas.**

Gasoline must be stored in areas that are well-ventilated, free from ignition sources and in areas permitted by the National Fire Code of Canada.

- NEVER store or transport gasoline in glass, in metal cans with plastic parts or in plastic containers which have not been approved for these uses.
- NEVER smoke while you are handling gasoline or other flammable liquids.
- NEVER use gasoline to start your barbecue or as a cleaner or solvent.
- In case of major spills - Get out and stay out!
- Clear people from the area immediately.
- Open exterior doors and windows to

ventilate the area.

- Call the fire department from a neighbor's phone.
- Do not operate light switches, electrical appliances or any other source of sparks.
- Don't light matches or lighters, and extinguish cigarettes immediately.
- Do not re-enter the area until the hazard has been eliminated.