



ANDERSON COUNTY
FIRE EXTINGUISHER SAFETY, USE AND
MAINTENANCE WHITE PAPER

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 and contact the proper authorities.

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.

To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word **PASS**:

- **P**ull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.
- **A**im low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- **S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side.

Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.

Extinguishers should be installed in plain view near an escape route.

Extinguishers require routine care. Read your operator's manual and ask your dealer how your extinguisher should be inspected and serviced. Following manufacturer's instructions, check the pressure in your extinguishers once a month.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and state fire code, fire extinguishers shall be maintained annually and inspected monthly.

https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/portable_use.html

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Safety-equipment/Fire-extinguishers>