OPERATING YOUR FIRE EXTINGUISHER

PULL THE PIN
AIM AT THE BASE
SQUEEZE TRIGGER
SWEEP

Remember:
• Test extinguisher before approaching the fire
• Keep low & approach with the wind at your back
• Back away, watching for rekindle

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Lvv4uNzk5A
Fire Extinguisher Classes

The letter on a fire extinguisher indicates its classification:

• Class A puts out ordinary combustible fires (wood, paper, plastic, etc.)
• Class B puts out flammable liquid fires (oil, gas, petroleum, etc.)
• Class C puts out electrical fires
• Class D puts out combustible metal fires (magnesium, titanium, potassium, sodium, etc.)
• Class K puts out cooking fires ignited by flammable oil and grease

You might come across a fire extinguisher labeled 4A:20B:C. The numbers indicate the size rating of each extinguishing agent. Here’s how it works:

• The Class A size rating represents the water equivalency. Each number represents 1 ¼ gallons of water. For instance, 2A means the extinguisher is just as effective as 2 ½ gallons of water. 4A is equivalent to 5 gallons of water.

• The Class B size rating indicates the square footage the extinguisher can cover. 20B means that as long as you sweep the nozzle side to side, there is enough extinguishing agent inside the canister to provide 20 square feet of coverage.

• There is no size rating for Class C. After all, a Class C electrical fire is nothing more than a Class A or Class B fire with energized components requiring a non-conductive extinguishing medium. To effectively fight Class C fires, choose your extinguishers based on the Class A and Class B size ratings.

• There is also no size rating for Class D fires. The effectiveness is detailed on the nameplate based on the specific combustible metal for which the extinguisher is recommended.

All Government trucks transporting any DOT class of explosives (both on post and off post) will be equipped with two portable fire extinguishers rated class 10BC or greater. It is recommended that these two fire extinguishers be rated 2A:10B:C to enable users to fight a class “A” fire. One must be CO2 or dry chemical, if chemical munitions are being transported. Commercial trucks transporting explosives for the Army are required to have only one 10BC or greater rated fire extinguisher. Crews loading and unloading vehicles carrying or about to carry ammunition or explosives must have two 10BC or greater fire extinguishers available as required by chapter 6, DA PAM 385–64.