

REMEMBER the acronym:

P	pull
A	aim
S	squeeze
S	sweep

How to Use a Fire Extinguisher

Last updated November 2, 2010

1. Get training.

- Register for Fire Extinguisher Training via [UC Learning Center](http://uclearning.ucsd.edu) (<http://uclearning.ucsd.edu>)

2. Sound the alarm.

- Activate the fire alarm and call for help.
 - **Campus phone:** dial 911
 - **Off-campus or cell phone:** dial (858) 534-4357 (534-HELP)
- Alert people in the area to evacuate.

3. Determine if it is safe to use a fire extinguisher.

- Use a fire extinguisher only if:
 - The fire is small (trash can size).
 - You know how to use a fire extinguisher.
 - You have a clear exit path behind you.

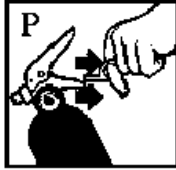
4. Determine which type of extinguisher to use.

- An "A-B-C" fire extinguisher can be used on all types of fires. Other types of extinguishers work only on certain types of fires. Check the chart below to see extinguishers that work on various types of fires.

Type of fire	Types of extinguishers to use
Class A: Ordinary combustibile materials, such as wood, cloth, paper, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A-B-C" • Pressurized water
Class B: Flammable liquids, such as oil, gasoline, kerosene, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A-B-C" • "B-C" dry chemical • Carbon dioxide
Class C: Presence of energized electrical circuits (e.g., electronic motors, electrical wiring, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A-B-C" • "B-C" dry chemical • Carbon dioxide
Class D: Reactive metals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D extinguishers only

4. Use the P-A-S-S procedure.

- Pull the pin in the extinguisher's handle.



- Aim the nozzle at the base of the flames, holding the extinguisher within 6 feet of the fire.



- Squeeze (or press) the handles together.



- Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire until it is out.



5. Follow up, as needed.

- Report used extinguishers immediately to [Facilities Management Referral Desk](#), (858) 534-2930
- If injuries or damage occurred, notify the [Risk Management Office](#), (858) 534-3820.

For more information, contact [EH&S Fire & Life Safety](#), (858) 822-5706.