Are You Using the Right Type of Fire Extinguisher?

For Ordinary Combustibles:
- Wood, paper, cloth, etc.
- Pressurized Water
- Fire Hose

For Flammable Liquids:
- Gasoline, paint, alcohol, oil, etc.
- Multi-purpose ABC

For Energized Electrical Equipment:
- Televisions, appliances, motors, etc.
- Carbon Dioxide

For Certain Combustible Metals:
- Magnesium, Titanium, Potassium, Sodium, etc.
- Sodium Chloride powder

For Commercial Kitchens:
- Combustible cooking media & cooking appliances using oils and fats
- Wet chemical

How Do I Use the Extinguisher If I Decide to Fight the Fire?

PULL
The pin: Some extinguishers require releasing a lock latch, pressing a puncture lever, or taking another first step.

AIM
Low: Point the extinguisher nozzle (or its horn or hose) at the base of the fire

SQUEEZE
The handle: This releases the extinguishing agent

SWEEP
From side to side: Keep the extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire and sweep back and forth until it appears to be out. Watch the fire area. If fire breaks out again, repeat the process.

Concerned about the chemical that is discharged from the extinguisher? Look up MSDS information about the different fire extinguisher chemicals.

If you would like to schedule a training for your organization, group or department to learn to use a fire extinguisher please see our Extinguisher Class Request page. Additionally, see our Checklist for Preparing for an Extinguisher Training and the Extinguisher Demonstration Request Form to send to PP-CS.