



# Tulsa Fire Department

Protecting Community Life, Health, Property and the Environment  
By Delivering Quality Life and Fire Safety Services.

## Community Relations / Public Education Branch

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## Portable Fire Extinguishers

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 number one priority for residents is to get out safely. 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 from the handle, **A**im the nozzle at the base of the fire, **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly, **S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side. The Tulsa Fire Department offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference to you and increase your survival rate dramatically.

### Portable Extinguisher Tips

- Always notify the fire department before trying to extinguish a fire with an extinguisher
- For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.
- Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.
- Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out.
- Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.
- Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

### Did You Know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home
- Fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.
- 94 percent of the time a portable fire extinguisher is used, it puts out the fire -- typically within the initial 2 minutes
- 95 percent of all fire-related deaths occur once the fire has progressed beyond the early stages.
- For more information on how you can help prevent fire deaths, please contact The Tulsa Fire Departments Community Relations / Public Education Branch @ 669-6186