



# MAFES Dawg Tracks



October 26, 2015



## *Safe Use of Fire Extinguishers*

Portable fire extinguishers can save lives and property by putting out small fires or containing them until a fire truck arrives. They (portable fire extinguishers) have their limitations. They are good for small fires and containing others.

### Following are some important firefighting tips-

- ✓ Fires spread very quickly. In a split second, they can do an extensive amount of damage – and people can get seriously hurt or killed.
- ✓ That's the reason that it is important to take the following steps when deciding whether to fight the fire or seek other help.
  - Act. Quickly! Get other people to safety before trying to put out a fire.
  - Notify the fire department or have someone to do it for you.
  - Judge the size of the fire. Only fight a fire if it is small and is confined to the immediate area.
  - Look for an escape route. Don't fight a fire unless you're certain that you can safely get out of the area.
  - Be sure that the fire extinguisher you have on hand is the right type to combat the fire.
  - Only fight a fire that you are comfortable doing so. Don't panic and don't try to be a hero.

### Choose the Right Fire Extinguisher-

Using the wrong type of fire extinguisher on a fire can make the situation worse. Here are the main types of fire extinguisher:

- **Class A** – For fires of ordinary combustible materials, such as wood, paper, cloth, straw or hay.
- **Class B** – For fires of flammable liquids, such as grease, gasoline, paint, solvents, fuel oil and kerosene.
- **Class C** – for electrical fires.
- **Class D** – for fires of combustible metals, such as magnesium.

**\*\*DO NOT USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER UNLESS IT IS GOOD WORKING CONDITION!**

### Using a Fire Extinguisher-

The obvious item for using a fire extinguisher is to know the location of the extinguisher. Secondly, a good thing to know in advance of an emergency fire is to check out the types of extinguishers in the various locations to see what type they are. This is necessary so that, in case of a fire, you will know the types and what type of fire is acceptable for their use.

To operate a portable fire extinguisher, use the following acronym to remember the steps in their use:

### P-A-S-S-

- P – Pull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you and release the locking mechanism.**
- A – Aim low. Point the extinguisher to the base of the fire.**
- S – Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.**
- S – Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.**

### Other Safety Hints-

- ✓ For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher type that can be used for several different types of fires.
- ✓ Choose, when purchasing an extinguisher, one that has been approved by an independent testing laboratory.
- ✓ Read the instructions that comes with the new unit to get totally familiar with its proper use.
- ✓ Install the extinguishers close to an exit door. Keep your back to a clear exit - in case the fire gets out of control you will have a clear access to leave. Don't hesitate to leave if you feel that the fire is out of your control.
- ✓ Notify your supervisor if you spot an extinguisher with the safety pin missing, the gauge registers discharged, or the inspection showing tag shows the unit has not been inspected.
- ✓ If possible, turn off the power source.
- ✓ Stay low in a burning building -you will breathe in less smoke.
- ✓ Don't attempt to fight a fire unless you have been properly trained.

**GET IN S.T.E.P.**  
**SAFETY TAKES EVERY PERSON**  
 @@ @@ @@ @@ @@  
**SAFETY – A SMALL INVESTMENT FOR A RICH FUTURE!**