

# Using a Fire Extinguisher

The following steps should be followed when responding to incipient stage fire:

- Sound the fire alarm and call the fire department, if appropriate.
- Identify a safe evacuation path before approaching the fire. Do not allow the fire, heat, or smoke to come between you and your evacuation path.
- Select the appropriate [type of fire extinguisher](#).
- Discharge the extinguisher within its effective range using the [P.A.S.S.](#) technique (pull, aim, squeeze, sweep).
- Back away from an extinguished fire in case it flames up again.
- Evacuate immediately if the extinguisher is empty and the fire is not out.
- Evacuate immediately if the fire progresses beyond the [incipient stage](#).

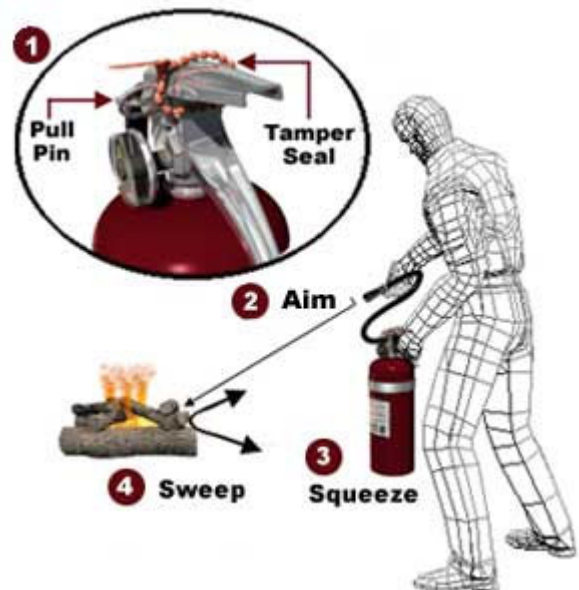
Most fire extinguishers operate using the following P.A.S.S. technique:

1. **PULL...** Pull the pin. This will also break the tamper seal.
2. **AIM...** Aim low, pointing the extinguisher nozzle (or its horn or hose) at the base of the fire.

**Note:** Do not touch the plastic discharge horn on CO2 extinguishers, it gets very cold and may damage skin.

3. **SQUEEZE...** Squeeze the handle to release the extinguishing agent.
4. **SWEEP...** Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire until it appears to be out. Watch the area. If the fire re-ignites, repeat steps 2 - 4.

**If you have the slightest doubt about your ability to fight a fire....EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!**



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From OSHA Webpage: [http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/portable\\_use.html#Using](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/portable_use.html#Using)