

How to Use a Portable Fire Extinguisher



Remember the acronym PASS - -

- P** Pull the pin.
- A** Aim the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the flames.
- S** Squeeze the trigger while holding the extinguisher up right.
- S** Sweep the extinguisher from side to side, covering the area of the fire with the extinguishing agent.

Remember: **Don't Try To Be A Hero!**

- Should your path of escape be threatened...
- Should the extinguisher run out of agent...
- Should the extinguisher prove ineffective...
- Should you no longer be able to safely fight the fire...

EVACUATE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY!

How to Inspect Your Fire Extinguishers

- Know the locations of the fire extinguishers in your work area.
- Make sure the class of the extinguisher is safe to use on fires likely to occur in the immediate area.
- Check the plastic seal holding the pin in the extinguisher handle. Has the extinguisher been tampered with or used before? Report any broken or missing seals/pins to Campus Safety at 293-6171.
- Look at the gauge and feel the weight. Is the extinguisher full? Does it need to be recharged?
- Water, foam, and dry chemical extinguishers have gauges indicating the pressure inside the extinguisher. The pressure needle should be in the 'green' area (generally 100 - 175 pounds, depending on the type of agent).
- Carbon dioxide (CO₂) extinguishers are high pressure cylinders with pressures ranging from 1500 - 2150 pounds. These extinguishers DO NOT have gauges and must be weighed by a fire extinguisher service company to determine the amount of agent remaining.
- Make sure the pin, nozzle and nameplate are intact.

A fire extinguisher service company inspects and services all VSU fire extinguishers annually, but be aware of the conditions of the fire extinguishers in your area by frequent visual inspections to ensure you have a working extinguisher there when you need one.

Report any missing, empty or damaged fire extinguishers to Work Management at Physical Plant and they will arrange to install a replacement.



If you have any questions contact Environmental & Occupational Safety at 293-6171 or www.valdosta.edu/safety. In case of any **EMERGENCY** call 259-5555.