



# Portable Fire Extinguishers

Portable fire extinguishers are essential firefighting tools designed for rapid response to small fires, preventing escalation and minimizing damage. They come in various types, each suited for a specific class of fire and require proper training to ensure effective use in emergency situations.

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## FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE: PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER SAFETY

Naval Safety Command has identified improper use, inadequate maintenance, and lack of training as recurring issues with portable fire extinguishers across the fleet. Failure to correctly operate and maintain these critical firefighting tools increases the risk of ineffective fire suppression, equipment damage, and personnel injury.

NAVSAFECOM has identified an overall lack of adherence to fundamental policy, proper maintenance, and personnel training when using and maintaining portable fire extinguishers. The most prominent concerns are:

- Failure to conduct regular inspections, leading to expired, damaged, or non-functional extinguishers
- Incorrect extinguisher selection for specific fire types, reducing effectiveness in fire suppression
- Improper storage and placement, delaying response time in emergencies
- Lack of personnel training on proper operation, including pull, aim, squeeze, and sweep (PASS) technique
- Neglecting to recharge or replace extinguishers after partial or full discharge



## READY TO RESPOND: PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER SAFETY

Portable fire extinguishers are critical first-response tools in fire emergencies. Proper maintenance, correct usage, and adherence to safety protocols ensure they remain effective in protecting personnel and equipment.

1. Inspect fire extinguishers regularly to check for expired tags, leaks, corrosion, or other damage that could impact functionality.
2. Ensure proper placement and accessibility by keeping extinguishers in designated, unobstructed locations for quick response.
3. Use the correct extinguisher type for the specific fire class to maximize effectiveness and prevent hazards.
4. Train all personnel on proper operation using the PASS method (Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep) to ensure effective fire suppression.
5. Recharge or replace extinguishers after use to maintain readiness for future emergencies.



## NAVSAFECOM RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. Ensure proper training and awareness
2. Maintain and inspect fire extinguishers regularly
3. Ensure proper placement and accessibility
4. Use the correct extinguisher type for the fire class
5. Recharge or replace extinguishers after use



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