

## **How to Prevent Fires**

### **Class A — Ordinary combustibles:**

- Keep storage and working areas free of trash.
- Place oily rags in covered containers.

### **Class B — Flammable liquids**

- Don't refuel gasoline-powered equipment in a confined space, stored in tightly closed, self-closing, spill-proof containers.
- Store away from spark-producing sources.

### **Class C — Electrical equipment:**

- Don't overload wall outlets.
- Keep motors clean and in good working order.
- Utility lights should always have some type of wire guard over them. Heat from an uncovered light bulb can easily ignite.
- Investigate any appliance or electrical equipment that smells strange. Unusual odors can be the first sign of fire.

## **When not to Fight a Fire**

- If the fire is spreading beyond the spot where it started
- If you can't fight the fire with your back to an escape exit
- If the fire can block your only escape

**DON'T FIGHT THE  
FIRE YOURSELF.**

## **Fire Extinguisher Location**

- Have one fire extinguisher on each floor of your home.
- Keep them in plain sight and no more than five feet above the floor.
- Do not put them in closets
- Even though a fire extinguisher may not match your décor, do not put it behind curtains or drapes.

**The most important places to have a fire extinguisher are in areas that are more susceptible to fire.  
KITCHEN and GARAGE.**



**CITY OF STOCKTON**

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**STOCKTON FIRE  
DEPARTMENT**

# **Fire Extinguisher Information**



**The main reason for a  
Fire Extinguisher is to  
protect your way out.**

**CITY OF STOCKTON**

# Fire Extinguisher: 101

A fire extinguisher is an absolute necessity in any home or office. While there's a good chance that the extinguisher will sit on the wall for years, collecting dust, it could end up saving your property and even your life. The main reason for Fire Extinguisher is to protect your way out. Here is some helpful information on Fire Extinguishers.

## The Fire Triangle

In order to understand how fire extinguishers work, you first need to know a little bit about fire.

Four things must be present at the same time in order to produce fire:

1. Enough **oxygen** to sustain combustion.
2. Enough **heat** to raise the material to its ignition temperature.
3. Some sort of **fuel** or combustible material.



This will create a **chemical reaction** that is fire.

## Types of Fire Extinguishers

It very important to understand the four different fire classifications. If you use the wrong type of fire extinguisher on the wrong class of fire, you can make matters worse.

### **Class A - Wood, paper, cloth, trash, plastics**

Solid combustible materials that are not metals. Class **A** fires generally leave an **Ash**.

### **Class B - Flammable liquids: gasoline, oil, grease, acetone**

Any non-metal in a liquid state, on fire. This classification also includes flammable gases. Class **B** fires generally involve materials that **Boil** or **Bubble**.

### **Class C - Electrical: energized electrical equipment**

As long as it's "plugged in," it would be considered a class C fire. Class **C** fires generally deal with electrical **Current**.

### **Class D - Metals: potassium, sodium, aluminum, magnesium**

Unless you work in a laboratory or in an industry that uses these materials, it is unlikely you'll have to deal with a Class D fire. It takes special extinguishing agents (Metal-X, foam) to fight such a fire.

## Using a Fire Extinguisher

It's easy to remember how to use a fire extinguisher if you can remember the acronym **PASS**, which stands for **Pull, Aim, Squeeze, and Sweep**.



**PULL the pin.** This will allow you to discharge the extinguisher.

**AIM at the base of the fire.** If you aim at the flames (which is frequently the temptation), the extinguishing agent will fly right through and do no good. You want to hit the fuel.

**SQUEEZE the top handle or lever.** This depresses a button that releases the pressurized extinguishing agent in the extinguisher.

**SWEEP from side to side** until the fire is completely out. Start using the extinguisher from a safe distance away, then move forward. Once the fire is out, keep an eye on the area in case it re-ignites.

**Always read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher.**