

Sonoma Valley Fire District

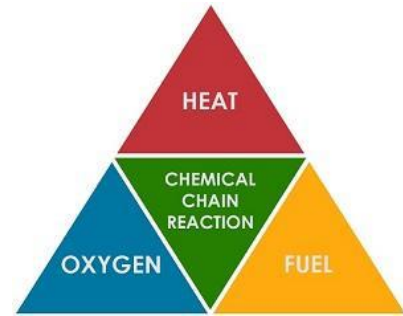


Fire Extinguisher Training

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Fire Tetrahedron

There are four elements necessary to make a fire. Those elements, heat, oxygen, fuel and a chemical chain reaction, are represented in the Fire Tetrahedron. Each of these elements rely on the presence of the other three in order to work and fire cannot exist without each of the four.



Fire Classifications

Fires are classified according to the type of fuel that is burning. This is important because using the wrong type of extinguisher on the wrong class of fire, could make matters worse.

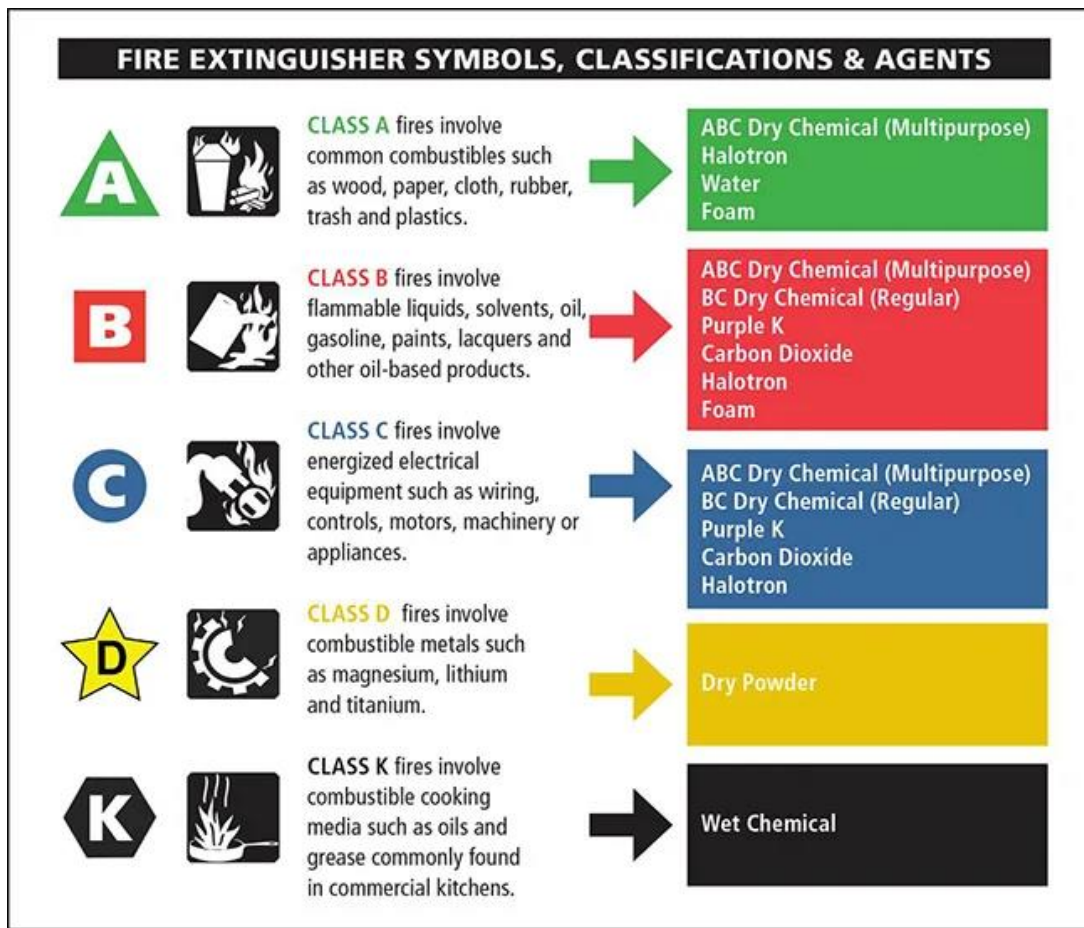
Class A: Ordinary combustibles such as wood, cloth, paper or plastics.

Class B: Flammable or combustible liquids, flammable gasses or greases.

Class C: Energized electrical equipment.

Class D: Combustible metals such as magnesium, lithium or titanium.

Class K: Combustible cooking materials such as oils and greases found in commercial kitchens.



Standards for Fighting Fires w/ a Fire Extinguisher

- Assist any person that is in immediate danger to get them to safety. Do this without risking your own safety.
- Call 911 or activate the building fire alarm before fighting any fire. The alarm will notify the fire department, as well as other building occupants, of the emergency.
- Know what is burning. This is important so you choose the correct fire extinguisher.
- Only use a fire extinguisher if the fire is in its initial stages. If the fire is already spreading, DO NOT attempt to extinguish it. At that point you should immediately evacuate the building.
- Make sure you are comfortable using a fire extinguisher. If you are not, evacuate the building and let the fire department take care of it.
- Never allow the fire to get between you and the exit. Always position yourself with an exit, or means of escape, at your back just in case the extinguisher malfunctions or something unexpected happens.

Using a Fire Extinguisher

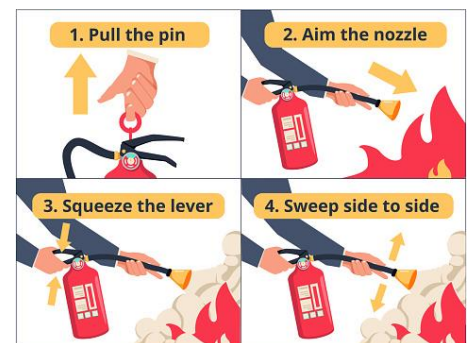
Once you have assisted any person that is in immediate danger and you, or someone else, has pulled the alarm or called 9-1-1 and you've determined the fire is one that you are comfortable attempting to extinguish, you then apply P.A.S.S. as you grab the fire extinguisher. Start at a safe distance (approximately 6-8 feet) and then walk towards the fire as you extinguish it.

Pull the pin. This removes the safety mechanism and will allow you to discharge the extinguisher.

Aim the hose at the base of the fire.

Squeeze the handle to release the pressurized extinguishing agent.

Sweep the hose from side to side until the fire is completely out.



After The Fire

- Once the fire is extinguished, keep close watch to make sure it does not reignite. The fire department on scene will double check this.
- Once fire has cooled, clean up contents, including chemical residue from the extinguisher. Discard burnt contents cautiously. Wear latex gloves to protect hands from chemicals.
- Make sure to have the extinguisher serviced and recharged before putting it back into service. Even if it was only partially used.