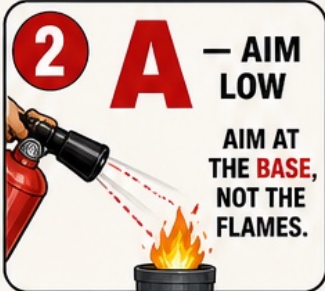




LIFE SKILLS: HOW TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

REMEMBER **PASS**



BEFORE YOU USE IT:

- ☒ Fire is small and contained
- ☒ You have a clear **exit** behind you
- ☒ Alarm has been raised / teacher or adult notified
- ☒ You know the extinguisher is safe for that fire type
- ☒ If the fire grows, **evacuate immediately**

QUICK FACTS

- 6-8 FT** Stand about 6-8 feet away from the fire.
- Aim at the **base**, not the top of the flames.
- Keep your back toward a **safe exit**.
- Never** fight a fire if smoke blocks your way.
- Leave **immediately** if you feel unsafe.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER ANATOMY



EXAMPLE: SMALL TRASH CAN FIRE



A student sees paper burning in a trash can. They alert an adult, keep an exit behind them, pull the pin, aim low, squeeze, and sweep until the fire is out.



WHEN IN DOUBT:
GET OUT, CLOSE THE DOOR, AND **CALL EMERGENCY SERVICES.**



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Life Skills: How to Use a Fire Extinguisher

Remember PASS

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Overview

A fire extinguisher can stop a small fire before it becomes a major emergency, but only when it is used correctly and safely. Students should know the PASS method because it turns a stressful situation into four simple actions: Pull, Aim, Squeeze, and Sweep. Fire safety also means knowing when not to fight a fire and when to evacuate immediately. The goal is to protect people first, then property only if it is safe.

Key Facts

- PASS = Pull the pin, Aim at the base, Squeeze the handle, Sweep side to side.
- Use a fire extinguisher only on a small, contained fire with a clear exit behind you.
- Aim at the base of the flames, not the top, because the fuel source must be cooled or smothered.
- Stand about 6 to 8 feet from the fire to begin, then move closer only if the fire gets smaller.
- Evacuate if the fire spreads, smoke increases, the extinguisher runs out, or you feel unsafe.
- Common extinguisher classes include A for ordinary materials, B for flammable liquids, C for electrical fires, D for metals, and K for cooking oils.

Vocabulary

PASS: PASS is the four-step method for using a fire extinguisher: Pull, Aim, Squeeze, and Sweep.

Fire extinguisher: A fire extinguisher is a portable safety device that releases a substance to control or put out a small fire.

Base of the fire: The base of the fire is the area where the burning material or fuel is located.

Evacuation route: An evacuation route is a safe path used to leave a building quickly during an emergency.

Fire class: A fire class is a category that tells what kind of material is burning and which extinguisher is appropriate.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Aiming at the flames instead of the base is wrong because the visible flames are not the fuel source. Direct the spray at the burning material to help stop the fire.
- Standing too close at the start is wrong because heat, smoke, or sudden flare-ups can injure you. Begin about 6 to 8 feet away and keep an exit behind you.
- Trying to fight a large or spreading fire is wrong because extinguishers are designed for small, contained fires. Leave immediately and alert others if the fire grows or blocks your escape.
- Using the wrong type of extinguisher is wrong because some agents can be ineffective or dangerous for certain fires. Check the fire class label before using it if you can do so safely.

Practice Questions

1. A student starts 8 feet from a small trash-bin fire and safely moves 2 feet closer after the fire gets smaller. How far from the fire is the student now?
2. A hallway has 3 fire extinguishers located 40 feet apart. If the first extinguisher is at the classroom door, how far away is the third extinguisher from the door?
3. A small electrical fire starts in a computer cart, smoke is increasing, and the exit is behind the fire. Explain whether a student should use an extinguisher or evacuate, and justify the decision using fire safety rules.