

Fire Extinguisher Use - Safety Talk

Fire extinguishers are an important tool in preventing a small fire from becoming larger and deadlier. However, they should not be used to combat large or rapidly spreading fires. The most important thing to do during a fire is to get yourself to a safe area then call the proper authorities to combat the fire. A building and the property inside are not worth putting yourself or anyone at risk trying to put it out with a fire extinguisher. It is important to understand how to use a fire extinguisher and its limitations.

P.A.S.S.

The easiest way to remember how to use a fire extinguisher is to follow the P.A.S.S. method. The P.A.S.S. acronym was developed to allow people to remember the basic four steps to properly using a fire extinguisher.

- P-** **Pull** the pin. Hold the extinguisher away and release the locking mechanism.
- A-** **Aim** the stream towards the base of the fire. Spraying the flames will not put the fire out.
- S-** **Squeeze** the lever slowly and evenly. Pulling the lever too fast may shoot the stream from your target wasting the valuable firefighting agent.
- S-** **Sweep** the nozzle side to side to combat the fire.

We have three types of Fire Extinguishers at the Swinomish Casino & Lodge:

1.



2.



3.



- 1. **ABC:** Used on wood, paper, cloth, trash, flammable liquids and energized electrical equipment.
- 2. **Water Can:** Used on garbage cans and small brush fires.
- 3. **K-type:** Used on combustible cooking media such as oils and grease commonly found in commercial kitchens.

Fire Extinguisher Limitations

A dry chemical fire extinguisher such as the common red "ABC" extinguishers will reach a distance between 5 and 20 feet. It is important to be familiar with the models used in your work areas and the effective distance they can be used to safely respond to a fire.