

Fire Extinguishers

USC

*EH&S Fact Sheet
October 2005*

ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH & SAFETY

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Even though we cannot always anticipate fires, we can mitigate their effects through proper planning and training. Only those persons who have been trained on the proper use a fire extinguisher should attempt to operate it during an emergency and only after someone has contacted the Department of Public Safety.

Facilities Management Staff inspect the extinguishers regularly. However, it is also a good idea for your staff to make sure that the fire extinguishers found in your department are charged and in operational condition, as part of your routine inspections. In addition, make sure the type of extinguisher is appropriate for the materials found in the work area. There are 5 main classes of fire extinguishers, A, B, C, D, and K.

- Class **A** extinguishers are used for putting out fires of general combustibles such as wood or paper.
- Class **B** extinguishers are intended for use on liquids or grease.
- Class **C** extinguishers are used on electrical fires.
- Class **D** extinguishers are used on fires of flammable metals.
- Class **K** extinguishers are used in **K**itchens and environments with the high probability of grease fires.

Operation : When operating an extinguisher, remember the acronym **PASS (Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep)**.

- P** Pull the pin from the handle.
- A** Aim the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire.
- S** Squeeze the handle to begin the flow of extinguishing agents.
- S** Sweep the nozzle slowly from side to side.

Contact the Department of Public Safety to report any fires at USC (regardless of size). DPS can be reached at 213-740-4321.

For questions about the fire equipment in your work area, or to schedule a “hands on” fire extinguisher class for the staff in your department, contact the Fire Safety office at 213-740-6838.

EH&S Fact Sheets are intended for facilitating safety discussions in your department. Post the monthly topic on your departmental bulletin board.