

8 HOW TO OPERATE YOUR FIRE EXTINGUISHER IN A
10 FIRE EMERGENCY

11 DANGER!

24 Make sure your fire extinguisher can be safely and effectively used on the
37 small fire you want to fight. Always use extreme caution when fighting any
54 fire. Fight a fire only where there is a clear escape path to allow you to get
61 out safely if the fire gets worse.

62 WARNING!

73 Avoid breathing smoke and heated fumes; stay low if necessary. Burning
85 materials will release toxic fumes. Inhaling these fumes may cause injury or
86 death.

87 CAUTION!

101 Always stand back far enough away from the fire - near an exit - and make
117 sure nothing is between you and your escape route. If you get too close to a
131 fire, you risk getting burned or hit by splattering material like grease. If the
149 fire is too hot or too smokey for you to get within six feet (2 meters), do not
161 try to fight the fire yourself. Evacuate immediately and call the fire
162 department.

176 For fires on a kitchen stove, turn burners off immediately, if possible. If you
189 can't reach the oven or burner controls safely, extinguish the fire first, then
192 turn them off.

206 Fight the fire from an upwind direction, with your back to any strong air
220 current. Trying to find a fire with current flowing toward you can result in
222 serious injury.

226 TO FIGHT THE FIRE:

- 234 1. Remove the extinguisher from the mounting bracket.
- 249 2. Hold the unit firmly with the nozzle facing away from you. Pull out the
264 pin to break the "Safety Seal". You won't be able to squeeze the lever until
271 the safety seal is removed.
- 288 3. Stand back 6 feet (2 meters) from the fire and make sure the fire is not
293 between you and your exit.
- 308 4. Hold the extinguisher upright and aim the nozzle at the base of the fire.
- 318 5. Squeeze and hold the lever to discharge the powder.
- 333 6. Sweep the spray at the base of the burning material, using quick side-to-
343 side motions. (If the spray scatters the fire, move back.)
- 356 7. Move slowly towards the fire as the extinguisher spray pushes the fire
370 back. Maintain a 6-foot (about 2 meters) distance between you and the front
376 of the fire at all times.
- 388 8. Completely discharge the contents of the extinguisher and make sure the
397 fire is completely out. Flashbacks are common with fires.
- 411 9. For kitchen fires on a kitchen stove, turn off the stove immediately if
419 possible, otherwise, as soon as it is safe.
- 434 10. If you suspect a fire had an electrical origin, shut off the electrical power,
445 if possible, without eliminating your escape route. Do not touch electrical
448 wires or appliances.

458 11. After you have completely discharged your extinguisher, leave the
466 building and close all the doors behind you.

470 AFTER THE FIRE IS EXTINGUISHED

485 Do not turn the electrical power back on or plug in any appliances until the
498 area has been cleaned up completely. It is very important to remove the
512 powder from electrical equipment after a fire. If the powder gets wet, it can
522 conduct electricity. (Using a dry chemical extinguisher on wet electrical
534 equipment may be hazardous for this reason.) This may worsen an electrical
544 leakage problem, impair the equipment's insulation, or create an electrical
554 shock hazard. If the fire was on a kitchen stove:

- 564 • Make sure the oven and all burners are turned off.
- 576 • Clean up the powder completely before using the stove or oven. See
584 *"How to Clean After Using a Fire Extinguisher."*
- 596 • Ventilate the area thoroughly. If you think the fire had an electrical
597 origin:
 - 608 ○ Shut off the electrical power, if possible - do not touch any
618 electrical wires or appliances. Leave the building and close all
628 doors behind you. Call the Fire Department and have them
640 inspect the premises. As soon as they say it's safe to return,
648 ventilate the area thoroughly. Have a licensed electrician
652 inspect your electrical system.
 - 664 ○ Do not turn the power back on or plug in any electrical
671 equipment until the inspection has been completed.