



MEDIA RELEASE

Tucson Fire Department

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Fire Extinguishers

All fires can be very dangerous and life-threatening. Your safety should always be your primary concern when attempting to fight a fire. One way to effectively suppress a small fire is with a fire extinguisher. Extinguishers come in many varieties and it is important to have the appropriate extinguisher for the type of fire you are trying to extinguish. Listed below are some tips for safely extinguishing a fire. The Tucson Fire Department offers fire extinguisher classes to the public periodically, to inquire about classes call 791-5515.

Before deciding to fight a fire, be certain that:

- The fire is small and not spreading. A fire can double in size within two or three minutes.
- You have the proper fire extinguisher for what is burning.
- The fire won't block your exit if you can't control it. A good way to ensure this is to keep the exit at your back.
- You know your fire extinguisher works. Inspect extinguishers once a month for dents, leaks or other signs of damage. Assure the pressure is at the recommended level. On extinguishers equipped with a gauge, the needle should be in the green zone - not too high and not too low.
- You know how to use your fire extinguisher. There's not enough time to read instructions when a fire occurs.

How to Fight a Fire Safely:

- Always stand with an exit at your back.
- Stand several feet away from the fire, moving closer once the fire starts to diminish.
- Use a sweeping motion and aim at the base of the fire.
- If possible, use a "buddy system" to have someone back you up or call for help if something goes wrong.
- Be sure to watch the area for awhile to ensure it doesn't re-ignite.

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