

An Employee’s Guide to Proper Selection and Use of Portable Fire Extinguishers in University Buildings

NOTE – The intent of this guide is that University employees are **NOT REQUIRED** to fight fires they discover with portable fire extinguishers; but to provide employees with the information needed to use portable fire extinguishers if a small fire situation arises.

Types of Fire:

Class “A” – Involves ordinary combustibles materials like: wood, paper, & cloth

Class “B” – Involves flammable & combustible liquids and gases

Class “C” – Involves a fire in electrical equipment

Class “D” – Involves flammable & combustible metals

Class “K” – Involves a fire in a commercial cooking appliance

Various types of Portable Fire Extinguisher installed in University buildings:

| Types of Portable Fire Extinguishers | Types of Fires | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Class A | Class B | Class C | Class D | Class K |
| ABC Dry Chemical | | | | | |
| BC Dry Chemical | | | | | |
| CO2 (Carbon Dioxide) | | | | | |
| Pressurized Water | | | | | |
| Pressurized Water Mist | | | | | |
| Wet Chemical | | | | | |
| Dry Powder | | | | | |
| <i>CleanGuard</i> (Halon Replacement) | | | | | |

Operation of a Portable Fire Extinguisher:

NOTE – A fire extinguisher is designed to extinguish small fires. Any time an employee utilizes a fire extinguisher; they must always have an exit/escape from the situation at their back. Never place a fire situation between you and your exit. If a fire extinguisher is utilized in or around a University building, the operator must report the incident as a fire to **9 1 1** as soon as possible.

PASS

Pull and **TWIST** the pin from the extinguishers handle

Aim the hose or nozzle towards the fire

Squeeze the handles of the extinguisher together

Sweep the extinguishing agent at the base of the fire

“Hands-on” fire extinguisher training is available and can be arranged by contacting UI Facility Management at 335-5125.