

BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO EXTINGUISH A FIRE:

1. Use a nearby manual pull station to activate the fire alarms. This will get everyone else moving out of the building to a safe zone.



2. The fire must be small enough (incipient stage fire) for you to be able to put it out with a fire extinguisher.

3. You need to be trained in fire extinguisher use. Training in fire extinguisher usage is available from ISU Environmental Health & Safety. Call the Training Office at 4-9972 for scheduling information.

4. Use the manual pull stations to activate the fire alarms. This will get everyone else moving out of the building to a safe zone.

5. You must have a clear way out of the fire area behind you **BEFORE** attempting to put out the fire. Otherwise, get out and wait for the Fire Department to respond.



6. Determine **WHAT** is burning, and use the right fire extinguisher for the task.

There are five Classes of fire-

Class A fires involve common combustible materials, such as wood, paper and fabrics.

Class B fires involve flammable and/or combustible liquids.

Class C fires involve electrical equipment that's energized.

Class D fires involve metals like sodium, or finely divided metals.

Class K fires involve cooking oils used in deep fryers, typically in commercial kitchens.

DON'T use a Class A (water) extinguisher on an electrical (C) fire, a fire involving a fryer (K), or a flammable liquid (B) fire, as the user may be electrocuted or the flammable liquid or burning oil will spread rapidly. Burning oil may also flash from the container if water is added.

The Ames Laboratory typically stages combination A-B-C fire extinguishers in the hallways and labs, reserving specialty extinguishers for designated locations (Class D bulk extinguishers in metallurgical labs) or unusual situations (Class A fire extinguishers during a torch operation requiring fire watch).



The placement and maintenance of fire extinguishers are the responsibility of the people in the Plant Protection Section. If you use an extinguisher, please notify the PPS staff, in

G34 TASF
4-3483
guards@ameslab.gov



THE Ames Laboratory
Creating Materials & Energy Solutions
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

To use a fire extinguisher,
you need to remember

PASS



Pull the Pin- sometimes twisting the pin
will need to be done to break the seal



Aim at the fire's base-

Guide 10201.002
ESH&A, 294-2153
Revision 1, Aug. 2013



Squeeze the lever to start the fire
extinguisher discharge-



Sweep the fire extinguisher back and forth
across the fire base.

Fire Extinguisher Use Guide

What You Need to Know
Before Using a Fire Extinguisher at
The Ames Laboratory

