Fire extinguisher use

Hot Tips for dealing with fire

- Sound the fire alarm
- Call the fire department
- Keep your back to an escape path free of fire, heat, or smoke
- Get your fire extinguisher ready
- Operate the extinguisher using the **P.A.S.S.** technique
  - **PULL** the pin to release the locking mechanism
  - **AIM** the hose nozzle at the fire’s base
  - **SQUEEZE** the handle to spray the extinguishing agent
  - **SPRAY** from side to side at fire’s base until it’s out
- Back away from an extinguished fire in case it flames up again
- **Evacuate immediately if:**
  - the extinguisher is empty and the fire is not out
  - the fire progresses beyond the incipient stage
  - there’s any doubt about your ability to fight the fire

Evaluate the situation before fighting a fire

- **Will you be putting yourself or others at risk by staying to fight the fire?**
- **Is the fire small enough that you can put it out safely?**
- **Is the air safe to breathe?**
- **Is there too much smoke and heat?**
- **Have you been trained to properly use a fire extinguisher?**
- **Is a fire extinguisher within easy reach?**
- **Is the extinguisher fully charged and large enough?**

Facts

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, in a recent year there were nearly 1,300,000 fires in the U.S, and they caused nearly 3,300 deaths, 16,000 injuries, and nearly $12 billion in losses/damages.

For more information on this and other safety topics, please log on to the member-exclusive website at nsc.org.