



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER EL PASO

Operating Policy and Procedure

TTUHSC EL PASO FIRE EXTINGUISHER OPERATION AND TYPES OF FIRE

There are four steps one must know to operate a fire extinguisher. Remembering the word **PASS** will help you remember the steps to properly operate a fire extinguisher.

The PASS procedure is appropriate for the operation of all portable extinguishers.

- P** - Pull the pin (breaking the tamper clasps)
- A** - Aim (aim the nozzle or hose of the extinguisher)
- S** - Squeeze the trigger (discharging agent)
- S** - Sweep the agent from side to side at the base of the fire. Fires are generally categorized as either:
 - A:** Fires which leave an ash such as paper or cloth
 - B:** Flammable liquid, cooking oils or plastic
 - C:** Fires of electrical origin

Extinguisher labels will indicate the types of fire the extinguisher will extinguish readily. The most common type of extinguisher is labeled with an "A B C", referred to as a "multipurpose dry chemical", and is appropriate for all three types of fire.

The proper use of a fire extinguisher for small fires can drastically reduce property damage. However, firefighting is inherently dangerous, so if one chooses to extinguish a fire, another person should be made aware of that intention and a clear exit path should be a priority. Remember, if one extinguisher does not get the job done, close the door and evacuate. The TTUHSC El Paso Fire Marshal is available to answer questions or provide training, and may be reached at 915-215-4821 during business hours.