

# CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- ▶ When used properly, portable fire extinguishers can help save lives and property. They are also useful in containing small fires until the fire department arrives.

Portable home fire extinguishers **ARE NOT** designed to extinguish large or spreading fires. Even against small fires, they are useful only under certain conditions. Before using a portable fire extinguisher, be sure the fire department has been notified. A few things to remember are.



▶ ***FIRE EXTINGUISHERS ARE DESIGNED FOR:***

- Small fires
- Confined fire areas
- People who have read the directions earlier



▶ ***FIRE EXTINGUISHERS ARE NOT DESIGNED FOR:***

- Large fires
- Rapidly growing fires
- People who are unfamiliar with fire extinguisher use



# ADULT FIRE SAFETY

▶ **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS COME IN DIFFERENT CLASSES. KNOW WHAT IS ON FIRE AND USE THE PROPER EXTINGUISHER.**



Ordinary  
Combustibles  
Wood  
Paper  
Plastics  
Cloth



Flammable Liquids  
Grease Oil



Electrical Equipment



Flammable Metals  
Magnesium

**WARNING!** Using a fire extinguisher on the wrong class of fire can **MAKE THE FIRE WORSE!**

▶ **WHEN A FIRE OCCURS ALWAYS:**

- First notify 911, and sound any alarms
- Evacuate immediately
- Rescue anyone in danger

▶ **NEVER...**

- Attempt to extinguish a large or rapidly growing fire
- Fight fires without an escape route
- Fight fires in a smoke filled room
- Fight fires if you are in doubt
- Assume the fire is out. Wait until the area is inspected by the fire department.

▶ **YOU CAN TRY TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER IF YOU...**

- Know the fire is small and confined
- Keep a clear escape route. Don't let the fire get between you and the exit
- Stay low, below the smoke
- If you have any doubt, leave the area
- Leave if fire grows out of control
- Close door to contain fire before you leave
- Wait for the fire department's permission before you re-enter the area



*Always call 9-1-1 first in cases of emergency.*