

# Fact Sheet

## Fire Extinguishers

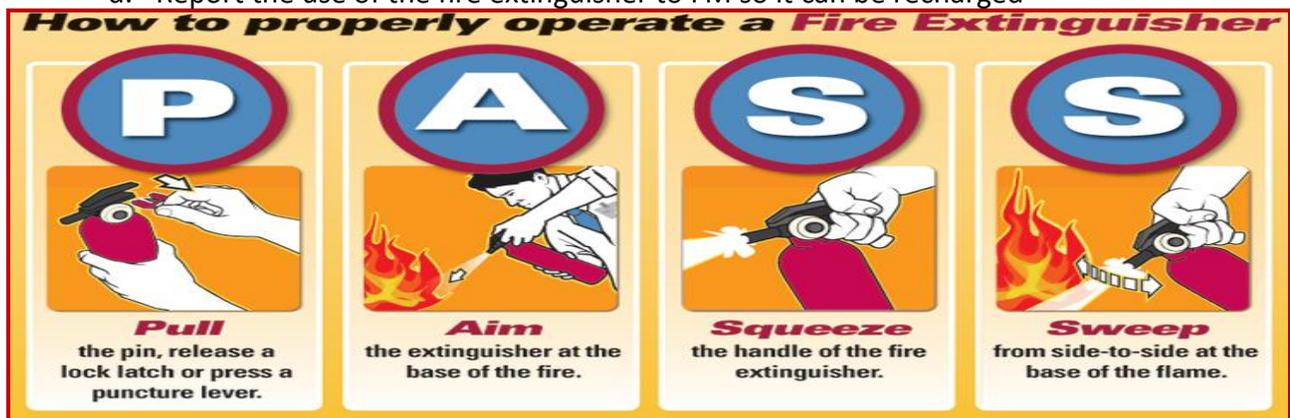
Dry chemical class ABC fire extinguishers are available in all research labs. Researchers are responsible for following best practices to prevent laboratory fires and prepare for them.

**If a fire breaks out:** You are NOT required to try to extinguish it!

1. Confine the fire (i.e. shut hood sash, close doors in the fire area) and report it (Dial 911, activate a fire alarm pull station).
2. Volunteers may extinguish it, if safe to do so:
  - a. If the fire is small and not spreading rapidly
  - b. There is no immediate danger and there is a clear escape path
  - c. The appropriate type extinguisher is available (e.g., ABC extinguisher should not be used for metal fires. Water or high pressure should not be used on grease fires) <sup>1</sup>.

**If you choose to use a fire extinguisher:**

1. Keep your eye on the fire.
2. Stay between the fire and an exit. Leave if the fire starts to come between you and the exit.
3. Get upwind (if outside), 8-10 feet from the fire.
4. Crouch down close to the floor or ground.
5. Aim the extinguisher at the base of the flame.
6. After extinguishing,
  - a. Always watch as you walk away in case the fire flares up again.
  - b. Call 911 to report current fire status
  - c. Notify your supervisor of the lab incident.
  - d. Report the use of the fire extinguisher to FM so it can be recharged



**A fire that requires more than one fire extinguisher is too serious for you to fight!  
Evacuate and call 911. If possible activate fire alarm.**

<sup>1</sup> ABC extinguishers are compatible with the most common types of lab fires, however in some instances where ABC extinguishers are not appropriate and specialty extinguishers should be made available (i.e., K-Type extinguishers are more appropriate for grease fires, and D-Type extinguishers may be necessary for metal fires). For more information regarding extinguisher selection contact DEHS at 626-6002.