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PROPER USE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Fire extinguishers can create a pathway to safety. But it is important to not only have them in place, but to also know how to properly and safely use them.

Our suggestions include:

- Having an extinguisher in every part of your home where fire might occur, especially in the kitchen, laundry room, furnace room and garage.
- Physically mount the fire extinguisher to a wall or inside a cabinet so they won't be moved and will always be easily located. Then teach everyone where they are mounted.
- Do not mount a fire extinguisher directly under a potential fire source (e.g., in the cabinet under a countertop stove). It may be difficult for you to get access to the extinguisher in an emergency.
- Understand how to use a fire extinguisher before a fire breaks out. This includes the acronym **PASS**
 - **P**ull The Release Pin
 - **A**im The Extinguisher's Nozzle At The Base Of The Flame
 - **S**queeze The Extinguisher's Trigger
 - **S**weep The Extinguisher Side To Side At The Base Of The Flame
- The only time a fire extinguisher should be used to fight a fire is when:
 - The fire is small and self-contained
 - The fire is not spreading rapidly
 - There is a clear exit out of the structure for the using the extinguisher
 - And the extinguisher is used to create a safe pathway out of the home.
- Remember that extinguishers will only last 10-20 seconds in a fire.
- If there is a fire in an oven, do not open the door. You are at risk of being burned and it will allow the surrounding areas to catch fire.
- Fire extinguishers do not last forever. Replace your fire extinguishers every 12 years. When purchasing a new one, mark on the extinguisher the date you installed them.
- Respect all fires, regardless of size. Fire extinguishers are one part of a fire response plan. The main objective is to give you a means for safe escape out of a structure.