



# North Carolina Wing Weekly Safety Blast



## 2018 - Topic #29 – Fire Extinguishers

### Reason for this Blast:

Fire is among the most deadly hazards but is the most preventable of accidents. Due to the serious danger of fire, it is beneficial to know what to do should a fire erupt. Most fires start small and can usually be contained within the first two minutes, if they are attacked by properly trained personnel with the right type and size of fire extinguisher.



### Fire Extinguishers Essentials:

- Fire extinguishers should be inspected monthly.
- Fire extinguishers should be serviced by a qualified technician on a yearly basis.
- Fire extinguishers should have operating instructions listed in the name plate: be familiar with these.
- Fire extinguishers of the proper type and size for the exposure shall be readily available.
- Fire extinguishers should always be available when fueling equipment.

### Do:

- Know the locations of extinguishers.
- Familiarize yourself with the types of fire and what extinguisher to use for each type.
- Remember the P.A.S.S. method for fire extinguishers (at right).
- Identify a safe evacuation path before approaching the fire.
- Evacuate immediately if you have any doubt about your ability to fight a fire.

### Do Not:

- Do not use water agents on grease and oil.
- Do not aim at the flames of the fire.
- Do not put extinguishers in areas where fire is most likely to happen making them unreachable.
- Do not block access to fire extinguishers.

### What to do when a fire starts:

1. Sound the alarm and get people evacuated.
2. Immediately contact the local Fire Department by dialing 911 if possible. (You may need to dial a number or pound sign at your facility first, then 911)
3. You may then choose to fight the fire if: you can do so safely, you have the right fire extinguisher, you have a clear escape route and there are no dangerous amounts of smoke.
4. Evacuate immediately if the fire starts to spread or begins to block exit routes

### MAIN DISCUSSION POINT OF THIS SAFETY BLAST

**Know where your fire extinguishers are, what types of fires they're capable of fighting and how to use them. They can keep a small fire from becoming a big problem!**

Think **PASS!**

1. **P**ull Ring

2. **A**im at Base of Fire

3. **S**queeze Lever

4. **S**weep Side to Side