

Using a Fire Extinguisher

Fire extinguishers are provided at all Dauphin County Library System libraries. Please take the time to learn where all of the fire extinguishers for your building are located. If a fire occurs, be sure to activate the building alarm system, assist any persons in danger or who need help evacuating, and then attempt to extinguish the fire **ONLY IF YOU CAN DO SO WITHOUT PUTTING YOURSELF AT RISK.**

A simple technique for remembering how to use a fire extinguisher is offered at <http://www.ehs.okstate.edu/modules/exting/Howto.htm>. This is the **PASS** method.

Another site outlining this technique is http://www.nmsu.edu/safety/programs/fire_safety/fire_saf_quick_guide.htm. This site provided the following:

Although extinguishers can vary in size, color and type of extinguishing agent, all devices operate basically the same way. If the fire is small and heavy smoke is **NOT** present and you have an exit available to you for evacuation purposes, grab the nearest appropriate extinguisher and operate following the **P-A-S-S** procedure:

P - Pull the pin located in the extinguisher's handle.

A - Aim the nozzle, horn or hose at the base of the fire.

S - Squeeze or press the handle.

S - Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire until it is out

For a video example, check out www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDXm2bAW5p8 or <http://vimeo.com/6194236> and for an excellent introduction and quiz check out the following website: <http://www.fireextinguisher.com/intro.html?language=en&industry=other>

Once again, I need to stress that you should only attempt to extinguish a fire with a fire extinguisher if you can do so without placing yourself or others at risk!