

Home Fire Extinguishers

Do you have a fire extinguisher in your home? If so, how old is it? Does it still work? If not, have you ever wondered what you need to have? It is important for every home to have a minimum of two fire extinguishers in their home. One should be located near the kitchen or a wood-burning stove. A second extinguisher should be placed your garage. It is important to remember that it should not be placed too close to a potential fire source as you may not be able to reach it if a fire occurs. The basic fire extinguisher to purchase is a 5lb, multi-purpose dry chemical ABC extinguisher. These can be purchased from your local hardware store at a cost between \$20-\$30 each. It is a good idea to replace your extinguishers every five to eight years. So make sure you write the date you purchased your extinguisher with marker on the extinguisher. If you are replacing an old fire extinguisher it is acceptable to throw the old extinguisher away in the garbage. These old extinguishers could also be placed in the trunk of your car in case you have a small engine fire or if you have a cottage take it with you to your cottage. It may or may not work as well due to the age but you would have something to try and extinguish the fire.

Now that you have purchased your extinguisher and have it placed, do you know how to use it? Remember this simple acronym:

P – Pull pin

A – Aim nozzle

S – Squeeze trigger

S – Sweep nozzle back and forth

Begin your fire attack a safe distance (10 ft.) away and work towards the fire source. Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire. Once the fire is extinguished you still need to call 911 to have our department dispatched. We will respond non-emergency to check for possible extension into walls or cupboards. If you are unable to put the fire out with one extinguisher, don't run to find the second extinguisher. Get everyone out of the home and call 911. If you have any questions, please call Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue at 886-6200.