Fire extinguishers can save lives and property, but should only be used if the fire is small and smoke and heat have not filled the room. If you’re unsure, evacuate immediately and call 9-1-1.

Types of Fire Extinguishers
Fire extinguishers are classified as A, B, or C to indicate which type of fire they will extinguish. Multipurpose (ABC) fire extinguishers are recommended for home use.
- **A** For use with ordinary materials like cloth, wood, and paper.
- **B** For use with flammable liquids like grease, gasoline, oil, and oil-based paints.
- **C** For use with electrical equipment that is connected to an outlet.

Using a Fire Extinguisher
- Alert others that there is a fire.
- Have someone call 9-1-1.
- Make sure you have a clear escape route.

The P.A.S.S. Method
When operating a fire extinguisher, remember P.A.S.S.
- **Pull** the pin.
- **Aim** low. Stand six to eight feet away and point the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire.
- **Squeeze** the lever slowly and evenly.
- **Sweep** the nozzle from side to side until the fire is completely out. If the fire does not extinguish, evacuate immediately.

Fire Extinguisher Maintenance
Inspect your extinguisher regularly to ensure that it will operate safely and effectively.
- Keep your extinguisher in plain view and out of reach of children.
- If your extinguisher has a pressure indicator, make sure the needle is in the green zone.
- Check for dents, scratches, corrosion, or other damage. Make sure the lock pin is firmly in place and that the discharge nozzle is clean.
- Read and follow all instructions on the label and in the owner’s manual. Some extinguishers may need to be shaken or tested monthly for adequate pressure.
- Non-rechargeable fire extinguishers should generally be replaced every five to seven years. Check with the manufacturer for exact dates.