

Using a portable fire extinguisher

Every fire, while it is still small, may be neutralized using a fire extinguisher. Instructions for use are available on the extinguisher's body. All fire extinguishers are started only in close proximity to the fire. Do not extinguish against the wind. Do not aim the flames but the burning material. When using a compressed air foam extinguisher, aim the edge of the fire so that a blanket or seal is created over the burning material.

Types of fire extinguishers:

1. Water

agent: potassium carbonate solution
principle: cools burning material, secondary: fire-generated carbon dioxide and water vapor
suitable for: burning solid materials – wood, paper, plastics, rubber, coal, straw, textile
unsuitable for: flammable liquids, paints, tar, oils, grease
do not use: electric fires, combustible metals, carbides

2. Dry chemical

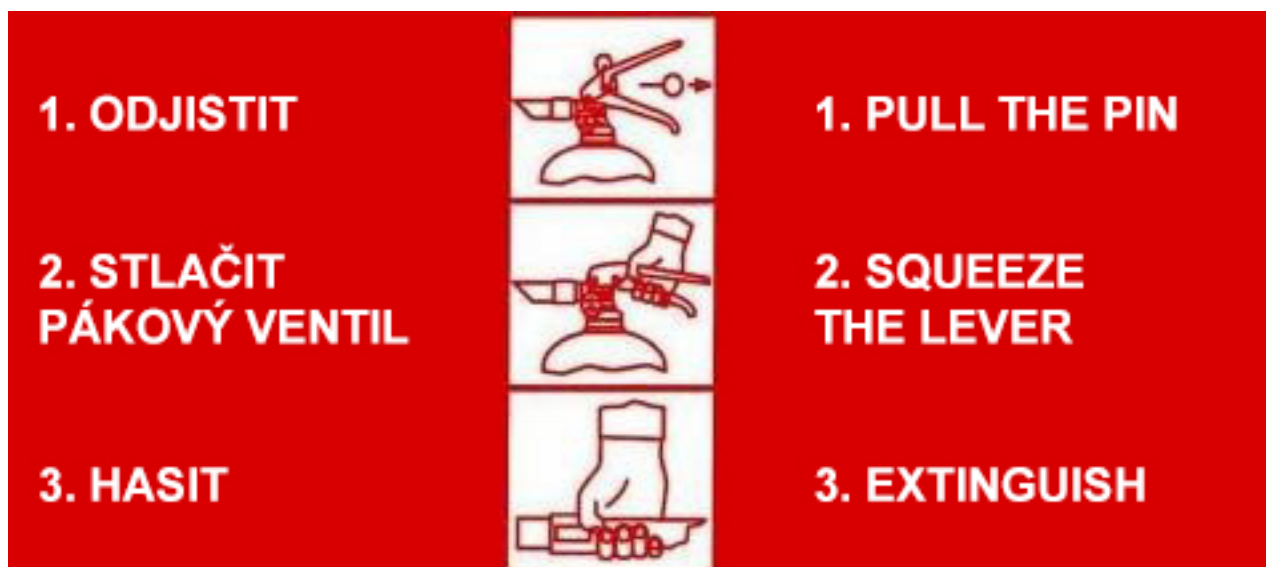
agent: multipurpose powder
principle: prevents chemical reactions involved in combustion, insulates the burning material
suitable for: burning solid materials: wood, stacked paper, rubber, coal, textiles
flammable liquids – gasoline, tar, oils, paints
flammable gases – acetylene, methane, hydrogen, natural gas
electrical installations up to 1000 Volt
unsuitable for: freely stored carbonaceous organic materials likely to be dispersed by the extinguisher: saw dust, coal dust, mechanical and electronic equipment, foodstuffs

3. Carbon dioxide

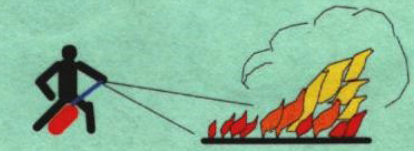


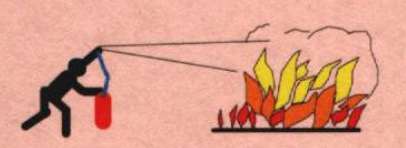
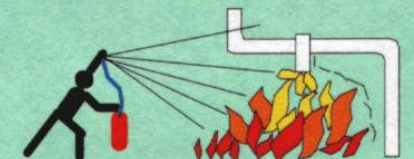
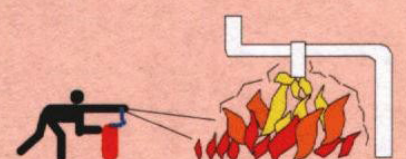
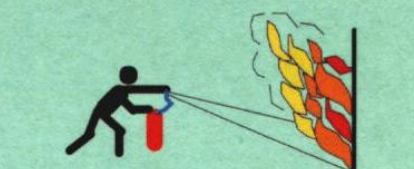
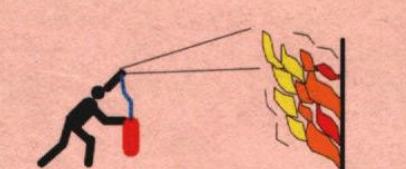
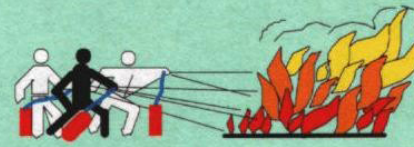


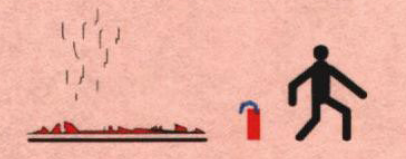
agent: carbon dioxide
principle: displaces oxygen, cools burning material
suitable for: flammable liquids – gasoline, paints, tar
flammable gases – acetylene, methane, hydrogen
electrical equipment, mechanical equipment, foodstuffs
unsuitable for: dusts – sawdust, flour, powders

When extinguishing:

- burning liquids, prevent further spillage of the liquid,
- burning solids, aim the extinguishing agent (water, powder, CO₂, halone) at the burning item.



Safe operation of a portable fire extinguisher

<i>How</i>	<i>the right way</i>	<i>the wrong way</i>
<i>Go with the wind</i>		
<i>Aim at the base of the fire</i>		
<i>Dripping liquids: Start at the top</i>		
<i>Burning walls: Start at the bottom</i>		
<i>Use all extinguishers simultaneously</i>		
<i>Ensure the fire has been put out</i>		
<i>A used extinguisher must be serviced, do not return it on the hook</i>	