

FIRE SUPPRESSION

Primary Care Paramedicine

Module: 20

Section: 03b



- You have arrived on scene of a MVC and are doing your scene survey. As you conduct your vehicle walk around you notice the trunk of the vehicle has popped open and there is smoke streaming out.
- Knowing it will take time to extricate your patients and the fire department is still 15 mins out, what are your options?

- General review of fire classifications
- Use of fire extinguishers
- P.A.S.S method
- Personal safety considerations

Classification of Fire

Class A



Class B



Class C



Class D



Class K



- Combustibles
 - Involve ordinary combustibles and natural vegetation
 - Wood, paper, cloth
 - Water is the most common extinguishing agent.



- Flammable liquids
 - Involve flammable or combustible liquids and flammable gases
 - Several different types of extinguishing agents are approved.



- Electrical
 - Involve energized electrical equipment
 - Can generate tremendous heat that ignites nearby Class A or B materials
 - Agents that will not conduct electricity must be used.







- Combustible Metals
 - Special techniques and agents are required.
 - Normal agents can react violently.



- Wet Chemical
 - Involve combustible cooking oils and fats
 - Some restaurants still use Class B extinguishers.



Fire Extinguisher Chart						
Extinguisher		Type of Fire				
Colour	Type	Solids (wood, paper, cloth, etc)	Flammable Liquids	Flammable Gasses	Electrical Equipment	Cooking Oils & Fats
	Water	✓ Yes	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No
	Foam	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ No	✗ No	✓ Yes
	Dry Powder	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ No
	Carbon Dioxide (CO2)	✗ No	✓ Yes	✗ No	✓ Yes	✓ Yes



- Fire extinguishers are only to be used on incipient fires and for egress
- Before the use of a fire extinguisher, look at the fire and size it up to ensure that the extinguisher will extinguish the fire
- Always test the fire extinguisher before using it by squeezing the trigger and ensuring proper discharge

- Locate fire extinguisher
- Select proper classification of extinguisher
- Transport fire extinguisher
 - Carry fire extinguisher in dominate hand and nozzle in weaker hand
- Activate extinguisher
- Apply the extinguisher agent
- Ensure personal safety at all times

P

Pull the safety pin (twist to break seal then pull)

A

Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire

S

Squeeze the trigger to discharge the agent

S

Sweep the nozzle at the base of the flames



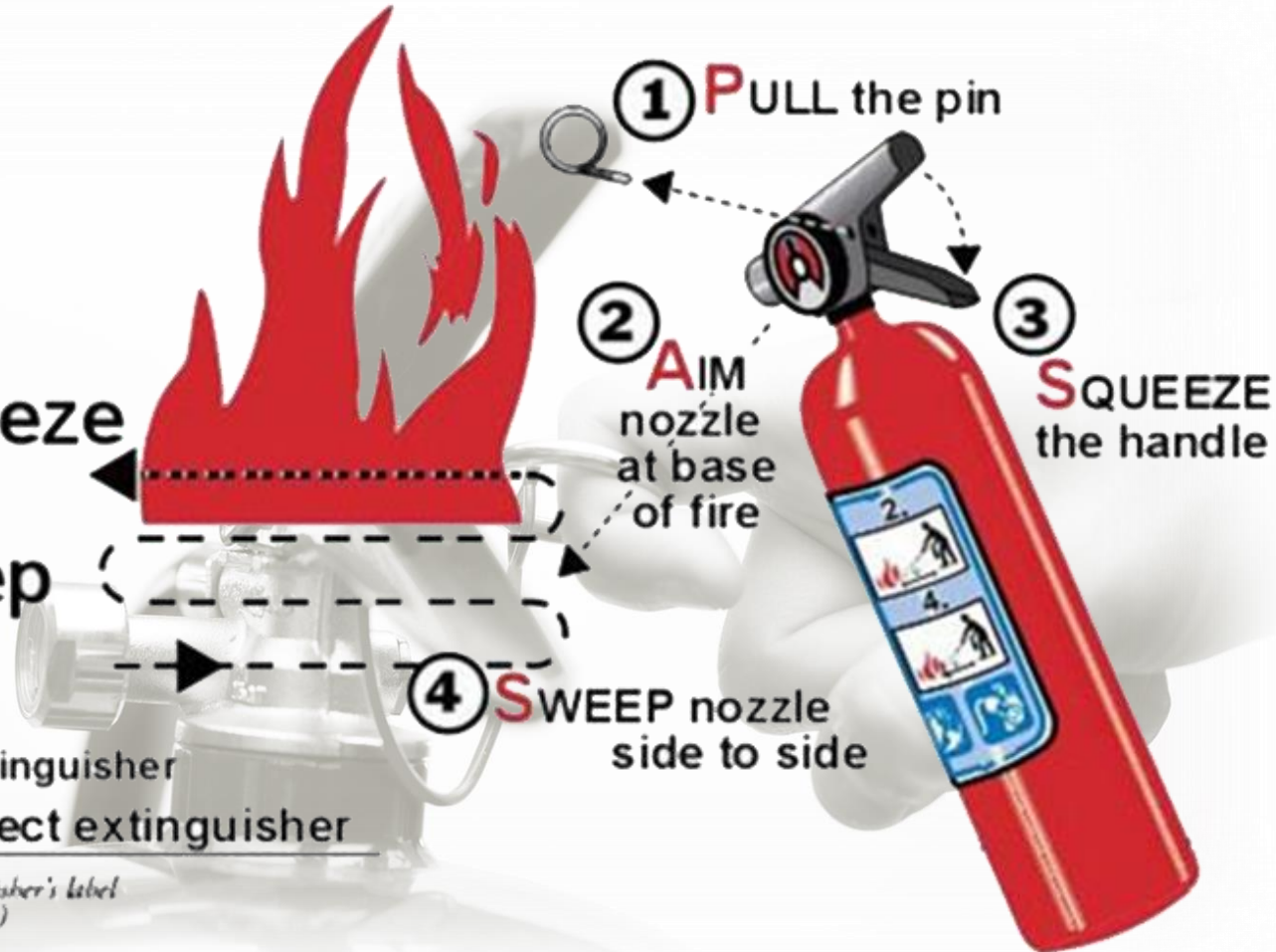
To operate an extinguisher:

Pull

Aim

Squeeze

Sweep



Know your extinguisher

Use the correct extinguisher

(Check your own extinguisher's label for detailed instructions.)

- Ensure your personal safety when using a fire extinguisher
- Always approach the fire with the exit behind you
- If outdoors have the wind at your back
- Never let the fire get in between you and the exit
- Do not turn your back on the fire
- Prepare for rekindle until fire has been over hauled

- Staging
- Identification
- Resolution
- External needs
- Emergency extrication

- When in doubt as to the safety of the scene...
 - Back away
 - Call for assistance
 - Identify potential concerns (hazards, trapped patients)
 - Stage until deemed safe to enter



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