TOPIC: FIRE EXTINGUISHER USE, AN EXPLANATION OF THE PASS METHOD

This document will explain how to use a fire extinguisher utilizing the PASS method. However, you should not use a fire extinguisher unless you are properly trained. Environmental Health & Safety utilizes a fire extinguisher training system that allows sessions to be conducted within the comfort of your office building; please contact Environmental Health & Safety to schedule a training session for your office suite or department.

1) PASS, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
PASS is a mnemonic device that helps you easily remember the four basic steps of fire extinguisher use. Each step is explained below.

1. **P**) PULL: A ring pin must be pulled out of the fire extinguisher handle and lever before it can be used. The ring pin is held in place by a breakable tie; hold and support the extinguisher by the bottom handle, and pull and twist forward on the pin for a quick break.
2. **A**) AIM: Fuel for the fire is located at its base. Aim the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire.
3. **S**) SQUEEZE: The top lever of the extinguisher handle must be squeezed down to discharge the extinguishing agent.
4. **S**) SWEEP: Sweep the nozzle and discharged agent back and forth at the base of the fire until it is extinguished.

2) SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:
1. Call 911, and alert others by activating the building fire alarm by pulling down on a manual fire alarm pull station.
2. The extinguisher label will show a proper starting distance between you and the fire.
3. Extinguishers have a limited discharge life; this varies depending on the size and type of extinguisher.
4. Have an exit strategy! If you choose to use a fire extinguisher during a fire emergency, remember to keep an exit at your back; so you can leave if the fire is not out after your extinguisher is discharged.

Environmental Health & Safety: On the web at the Health Science Center homepage under “Quick Links”.
Version 1, February 2015