

EHS News



TYPES OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

| | CLASS OF FIRE | TYPES OF EXTINGUISHERS TO USE |
|----------|--|---|
| A | Ordinary combustible materials, such as wood, cloth, paper, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A-B-C" • Pressurized water |
| B | Flammable liquids, such as oil, gasoline, kerosene, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A-B-C" • "B-C" dry chemical • Carbon dioxide |
| C | Presence of energized electrical circuits (e.g., electronic motors, electrical wiring, etc.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A-B-C" • "B-C" dry chemical • Carbon dioxide |
| D | Reactive metals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D extinguishers only |
| K | Oils and fats | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K (for kitchen) |

The "A-B-C" fire extinguisher can be utilized on all fires. Other types of extinguishers work only on a certain class of fire. To properly utilize any fire extinguisher, remember the acronym "**PASS**":

- **P**ull the pin
- **A**im at the base of the fire
- **S**queeze the trigger
- **S**weep from side to side

Fire Door Safety

A common safety issue that is identified during a building fire and life safety inspection involves fire-rated doors. Many of our staff, students, and researchers fail to appreciate the important safety function that these special doors provide, and use door stops to hold the door open for convenience. This creates a significant fire hazard for all building tenants because of the breach the opened door creates in the firewall. Any time a doorway to a room or corridor is held open by use of an unapproved device, such as a door stop or a defeated lock, the fire-rated room or corridor safety is compromised. Some fire-rated exit doors can be held open if they are integrated with the building fire alarm system, this allows them to automatically close when the building fire alarm system is activated.

A fire-rated door is what building and safety professionals call “passive fire protection”. It is a feature used within buildings to help prevent the spread of fire. Fire-rated doors help prevent the propagation of fire and the flow of hot gases by self-closing and latching during a fire.

A fire door has three major components:

1. The door is constructed to a testable rating
2. The door is self-closing
3. The door has a latch

All fire-rated doors are certified by testing laboratories, such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL), and typically have the laboratory’s certification label on the inside edge or top of the door. Below is an example of a testing laboratory’s label on the inside edge of a fire door.

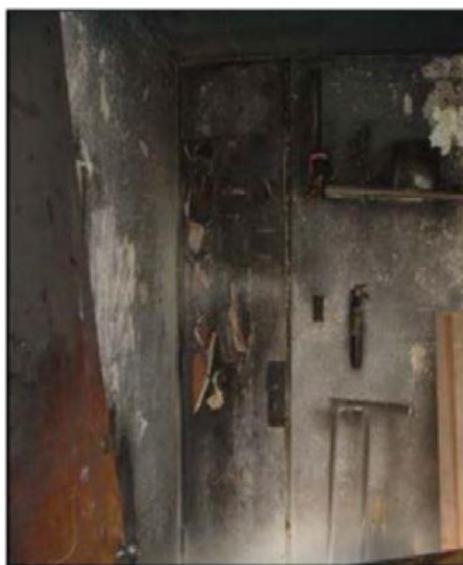


A fire door that has been modified or propped open can no longer confine smoke and fire to the area of origin, and may not provide occupants with valuable time to evacuate the building.

The pictures below are from the same fire, and clearly show the effectiveness of a fire door:



Corridor outside the room



Interior of the room

Because the fire-rated door remained closed, the fire was contained to the interior of the room, while the outside hallway remained clear and allowed everyone to escape the building safely.

Please consider the implications of your actions on yourself and others when you manipulate fire-rated doors within your building. It is the intent of Fire Prevention to work with university personnel to provide the highest level of personal safety, and we appreciate your efforts in recognizing this objective.

The "EHS News" is a quarterly newsletter published by Physical Planning/Facilities Management. Suggestions and comments are encouraged!

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