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The following chart will provide the necessary information when selecting the correct fire extinguisher for the type of fire. Fires are classified into different types and extinguisher selection is critical when commencing firefighting operations e.g. the use of any water-based extinguisher on a fire involving electricity could prove fatal.

	A Wood, Paper & Plastic	B Flammable & Combustible Liquids	C Flammable Gases	E Energised Electrical Equipment	F Cooking Oils & Fats
 Powder ABE					
 Powder BE					
 Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂)					
 Water					
 Foam					
 Wet Chemical					

Before using a portable extinguisher to put out a fire you must check the unit to ensure it is going to work.

1. Look at the pressure gauge (the needle should be in the green zone)
2. Remove extinguisher from it's mounting bracket
3. Twist the safety pin to break the plastic clip
4. Pull out the safety pin
5. Test the extinguisher away from the fire
(this shows it works, what's inside and how far it will throw it's contents)
6. Proceed to the fire