

Table 4.1: General Requirements of Fire Extinguishers

ITEMS	REQUIREMENTS
5. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Most fires produce toxic decomposition products of combustion, and some materials can produce highly toxic gases. Fires can also consume available oxygen or produce dangerously high exposure to convected or radiated heat. All of these can affect the degree to which a fire can be safely approached with extinguishing equipment. ii. Discharging portable fire extinguishers from too close a distance on cooking grease fires can cause splashing of the burning grease or oil and spread the fire. The recommended distance for operating portable fire extinguishers is shown on the label. iii. Portable fire extinguishers should not be installed adjacent to the location of a potential fire hazard but should be accessible to the hazard. iv. Halogenated agent extinguisher labels contain information such as the minimum volume of room that can be properly and safely protected. v. When using these extinguishers, avoid breathing the discharged agent or the gases produced by the thermal decomposition of the agent. vi. Evacuate and ventilate the area immediately after use. vii. Carbon dioxide fire extinguishers contain an extinguishing agent that will not support life when used in sufficient concentration to extinguish a fire. The use of a carbon dioxide extinguisher(s) in an unventilated space can dilute the oxygen supply. Prolonged occupancy of such spaces can result in loss of consciousness due to oxygen deficiency. viii. Extinguishers not classified for Class C hazards present a shock hazard if used on fires involving energized electrical equipment. ix. Dry chemical extinguishers, when used in a small unventilated area, can reduce visibility for a period of up to several minutes. x. For confined spaces, prominent caution labels on the fire extinguisher, warning signs at entry points, provision for remote application, extra-long-range fire extinguisher nozzles, special ventilation, provision of breathing apparatus and other personal protective equipment, and adequate training of personnel are among the measures that should be considered.
6. OPERATION AND USE	<p><u>1. GENERAL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Persons who are expected to use a fire extinguisher should be made familiar with all information contained in the manufacturer's nameplate(s) and the instruction manual. ii. Proper operation of a fire extinguisher requires the operator to execute several basic steps in a certain sequence. The fire extinguisher designer, the approval agencies, the installer, and the protection planner can influence significantly the ease and likelihood of these steps being accomplished properly. iii. Where employees have not been trained, operation of fire extinguishers could be seriously delayed, the extinguishing material could be wasted due to poor application techniques, and more fire extinguishers could have to be used, or the fire could possibly not be extinguished.