

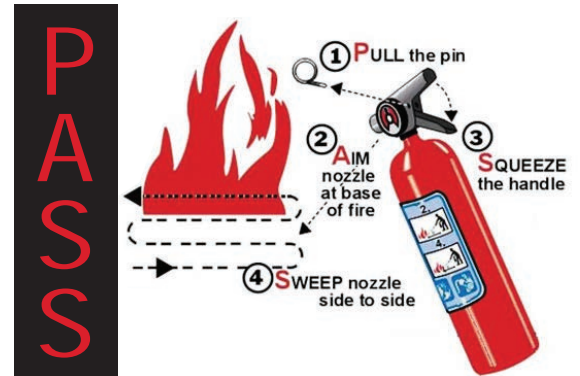
Safety Bulletin

Use PASS to Extinguish a Truck Fire

It's on your rig. It's there for emergency. But when you really need your truck's fire extinguisher, will you be ready to use it?

Tractor trailer fires can be caused by many factors – electrical, engine, tire, brakes or even your cargo. In any instance, knowing how to use your on-board fire extinguisher can keep you safe, prevent harm to others and minimize damage to your truck.

While your motor carrier likely offers annual fire extinguisher training, these basic reminders can help you in the event of a small fire.



Read the instruction plate. Every extinguisher has one. Review it so you're familiar with the extinguisher.

Know PASS – This simple word can help you remember the best way to use a fire extinguisher. PASS stands for:

- **Pull** the pin. It's a safety device that prevents the extinguisher from accidental discharge. So when you need it, pull it. Doing so will break the tamper seal and allow you to use the extinguisher.
- **Aim** the extinguisher low. Point the nozzle toward the base of the fire. If possible, do so with the wind at your back so the contents directly hit the flames. Don't touch the nozzle after discharge. It gets very cold and can damage the skin.
- **Squeeze** the handle. This will release the extinguishing agent.
- **Sweep** the extinguisher from side to side, continuing to aim at the base of the fire. Do so until the fire appears to be out or until the extinguisher empties. If the fire restarts and the extinguisher isn't empty, aim, squeeze and sweep again.

Act quickly – A fire extinguisher can discharge in as little as eight seconds.

Stay safe – If the extinguisher doesn't contain the fire, or if the fire is too large for your on-board extinguisher, then take immediate action. Call 911, move to a location that's safely away from your truck, and wait for emergency personnel to arrive.

Read the instruction plate. Every extinguisher has one. Review it so you're familiar with the extinguisher and what types of fires it can combat.

Read the tag. It will indicate the extinguisher's most recent inspection date. Inspections should happen annually, and hydrostatic (underwater) testing should happen once every five or 12 years depending on the type of extinguisher. Tip: Periodically shaking the extinguisher can help keep its dry chemical contents from solidifying.

