

What are the Fire Extinguisher requirements in an RV?

The NFPA 1192 Code requires a 5 lb. **B: C** fire extinguisher in all travel trailers and a 10lb. **B: C** fire extinguisher in all motorized vehicles. Fire extinguishers must be mounted within 24" of the primary means of exit. **B: C** fire extinguishers are rated to extinguish fires such as flammable liquids and electrical fires. The guidelines do not require that your extinguisher have a Class **A** rating, which would make it effective in extinguishing fires involving the materials, like wood and cloth that make up the interior of your RV. Fire extinguishers should be mounted so that the bottom of the extinguisher is at least 4" off the floor.

Fires extinguishers are divided into classifications based on what type of materials are burning. The most common classes are **A, B, and C**. The following is a list of what each class includes.

Class A: Ordinary Combustibles-wood, cloth, rubber, paper, many plastics, fiberglass, basically anything that leaves an ash.

Class B: Flammable Liquids-gasoline, oil, and oil-based paint.

Class C: Energized Electrical Equipment-wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers, machinery, and appliances. **Class C** does not include fires involving the 12-volt equipment found in RVs. Once you are unhooked from shore power and turn off your inverter or generator, a fire that occurs is a Class **A** fire rather than a **Class C** fire. Do not use a liquid fire extinguisher on a **Class C** fire as it could lead to receiving an electrical shock or worse.

Class D: Combustible metals.

Class K: Involve cooking oils used in commercial cooking equipment.

What type do I need and where should I keep it?

The question always comes up as to where the best place is to have your fire extinguisher and what type should I carry. The two fires that that the gentleman wrote to me about were: a fire located inside the main door of the trailer and one was a grass fire that spread under the RV.

In both cases, it would probably have been difficult to get to the fire extinguisher that comes in the RV located by main door. It is recommended by fire officials to have more than one fire extinguisher, preferably another one that covers the first 3 classes of fires, **Class A,B,C**; the most common fires being **Class A and B**.

It is recommended that you keep one in an outside compartment as well as inside the RV. If you have a tow vehicle keep another one easily accessible inside the vehicle.

Know how to use your extinguisher

Everyone has read the instructions on the extinguisher and knows how to use the fire extinguisher, right? That is until you actually have a fire, and you get caught up in the excitement of the moment. Here is an easy way, which Fire Departments recommend using, to remind yourself of the steps to take in operating your extinguisher using the word, PASS.

P A S S — Pull, Aim, Squeeze, and Sweep

1. Pull Pin
2. Aim Nozzle towards base of fire
3. Stand back from fire 6-8 ft. and squeeze the handle
4. Sweep the nozzle back and forth at the base of the fire.

Safety checklist before Fighting a Fire:

1. Call 9-1-1.
2. Be sure you understand how to operate your extinguisher.
3. Have an unobstructed escape route in case you can't put the fire out.
4. Determine what's burning and you have the correct class of extinguisher for the fire.
5. Determine size of fire; if it is larger than a small trash can wait for help.

This is just a quick review on fire extinguishers in your RV and only meant to spark your curiosities, for more