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Know your fire extinguisher facts

NEWMARKET, ON, August 02, 2016 – Central York Fire Services (CYFS) reminds Newmarket and Aurora residents on the essential principles of fire extinguishment in the event of small fire emergencies requiring immediate attention.

“The best thing to do if a fire emerges, is to get everyone out of the residence and call 9-1-1 from your outdoor meeting place outlined in your home escape plan,” says CYFS Fire Chief Ian Laing. “However it is crucial that people own and know how to properly operate a fire extinguisher in situations where a minor fire needs to be extinguished in an effort to minimize damage or in order to save lives.”

Personal safety and the safety of others are of utmost importance when deciding to fight a fire.

Before trying to extinguish a fire, be sure of the following:

- Fight a fire once the residence has been evacuated
- The fire department has been called (9-1-1)
- The fire is small and contained to one area
- Never allow a fire to come between yourself and an exit
- The extinguisher being used is suitable for the type of fire being fought

When operating a fire extinguisher, remember the acronym **PASS:**

Pull the pin. Holding the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, release the locking mechanism.

Aim low. Standing six to eight feet away from the fire, point the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire.

Squeeze. The trigger shall be squeezed slowly and evenly at the fire.

Sweep. Extend the extinguisher from side-to-side at the base of the fire and discharge the contents.

Fire extinguishers should only be used on small, contained fires. Most fire extinguishers empty in less than 30 seconds. If the fire is not out by then, leave the premise immediately.

Finally, there are several classifications of fire extinguishers which are designed to be used on specific types of fires. When considering purchasing a fire extinguisher, look for one that has an ABC rating, as this type can be used to put out most fires. It’s important to note that dry chemical extinguisher powder needs to be replaced every six years. Make sure to store the extinguisher away from stoves and heating appliances, and keep it out of the reach of children.

For more information, please visit www.cyfs.ca.

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