

## Major Study Finds Civilian Use of Extinguishers Safe and Effective

Between 2010 and 2012, Eastern Kentucky University and Worcester Polytechnic Institute conducted a joint study on the effectiveness of ordinary people using portable fire extinguishers, and the impact of a minimal amount of training. The study concluded that "the ordinary person is able to use a fire extinguisher without hurting themselves or others" and that "participants are able to use a fire extinguisher with great effectiveness."

This landmark study found that without any training nearly all participants, 98%, were able to successfully use an extinguisher by pulling the pin, squeezing the trigger, and discharging the extinguisher and almost three-quarters (74%) used proper technique of aiming at the base of the fire and used a back and forth motion until the fire was extinguished.

[Click here to access the summary of the study \(PDF\)](#)

*"Portable extinguishers and extinguishing systems are vitally important pieces of a comprehensive fire safety strategy. Studies have indicated that most will attempt to extinguish an incipient fire, and portable fire extinguishers should be their tool of choice."*

- Adolf Zubia, Former South Carolina State Fire Marshal

## Plant Workers Help Save Neighbors' Home

The Evening Sun- Hanover, PA

March 5, 2013

Usually there's nothing exciting about taking out the trash, but on a Monday morning for employees of the Mott's Plant in Aspers, it was the first step to saving a home. Plant Manager Terry Redding said one worker noticed while taking out the trash that there was smoke from the house and told another employee to call 911. A handful of plant workers helped contain a fire that broke out at the home of Kelly and Brian Lady next door to the plant. Workers used 11 fire extinguishers from the plant to help suppress the blaze until fire companies responded around shortly before 10 a.m. The blaze was fully extinguished by 11 a.m.

## Truck Carrying Commercial Chemical Methanol Catches Fire

The Providence Journal- Middleton, RI

March 27, 2013

The wheel of a tanker truck carrying the commercial chemical methanol caught fire Wednesday on West Main Road, but its driver was able to extinguish the flames, according to the Middletown police. The incident occurred on West Main Road in the area of Middletown Square. Smoke was coming from the rear, driver-side tire of the truck. The driver of the tanker truck, Steven Dutton,

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Call fire department; Announce fire/alert others; Make sure everyone is safe.



Defend in place



Fire/smoke alarm sounds



Suppression system activates



Sprinkler system activates



Fire department responds

extinguished the fire with his fire extinguisher, police said. The Middletown Fire Department arrived a few minutes later and sprayed water onto the driver-side tires of the truck to cool the brakes, police said. The fuel tank trailer contains methanol, which was slated to be used in the production of bio fuel. The tank is undamaged and there are no reported leaks from the container. The Rhode Island State Police Truck Inspection Unit has been notified and asked to respond to the scene and perform a safety inspection of the vehicle to determine what happened.

*"A sound fire safety strategy has to include portable extinguishers. They can extinguish fires during the incipient stage before they are large enough to trigger a sprinkler or other suppression system. This helps to protect against property damage and the buildup of dangerous smoke."*

- Joe Pierce, Deputy Chief, Dallas, Texas Fire Department

## Crews Respond to Hotel Fire in Rochester

myFOX47.com - Rochester, MN

March 26, 2013

Fire caused a scare for guests at a Rochester hotel Tuesday morning. The Rochester Fire Department was called to the Kahler Grand Hotel around 7:45 a.m. When firefighters entered the building, they found a haze on the mezzanine level. The fire was in a bathroom and a hotel employee had used a fire extinguisher to put it out. Firefighters made sure the blaze was properly extinguished, and used overhaul tools to open up the room and make sure the fire hadn't spread into a nearby wall. Some hotel guests were displaced for a short time. Investigators are still checking on what caused the fire.

## Police and Employee Handle Fire at Clarks Summit Laundromat

The Scranton Times Tribune- Clarks Summit, PA

March 21, 2013

A dryer fire was brought under control by nearby Clarks Summit police officers and a Department of Public Works employee Wednesday night. Police Chief Joe Laguzzi said three on-duty officers responded to the laundromat in the 100 block of Old Lackawanna Trail Road just after 6:30 p.m., when they heard calls over the scanner. They pulled a fire extinguisher from a police cruiser and used it to control the fire, which spread to the wall and ceiling of the building. Clarks Summit firefighters arrived on the scene shortly after.



Saving Lives, Protecting Property.

### Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association 101

The Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association is the premier trade association representing leading brands, and spanning dozens of product categories related to fire protection. The Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association is comprised of four divisions represented by product categories: portable fire extinguishers, interior equipment, fire hose and pre-engineered suppression systems. These divisions work together in an effort to promote Balanced Fire Protection, Life Safety and initial response when disaster strikes. Members of the Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association have formed a subgroup, the Government Relations Committee (GRC), to address legislative and regulatory issues relating to portable fire extinguishers and pre-engineered systems. The GRC's main goals focus on helping to educate officials by advancing a balanced fire safety philosophy that reflects the need for both sprinklers