NFPA 10 is the standard for portable fire extinguishers. It provides the minimum requirements to ensure portable fire extinguishers will work as intended to provide a first line of defense against fires of limited size.

The provisions of the NFPA 10 standard apply to the...

- selection
- installation
- inspection
- maintenance
- testing

...of portable fire extinguishers.

In order to successfully extinguish a fire using a portable fire extinguisher, make sure to:

1. Have the correct type of fire extinguisher installed by a fire protection professional.
2. Pull the fire evacuation alarm to notify building occupants of a fire emergency and call 911.
3. Grab the closest fire extinguisher and prepare to use it.
4. Think P.A.S.S. to operate the fire extinguisher — pull the pin, aim, squeeze lever and sweep toward the base of the fire.

Many fires are small at origin and can be extinguished using portable fire extinguishers. Always notify the fire department as soon as a fire is discovered.