PreventThink Life Safety

<u>Fire Extinguishers</u>

Fire extinguishers are a common item for homes and businesses. Because of this, many believe it is a "must use" in an emergency. Please consider this alternative before automatically grabbing a fire extinguisher in an emergency...**<u>LIFE SAFETY</u>** is your number one priority.

Firefighters always place life safety above fire attack. Please do the same. Once all lives are safe, only consider using a fire extinguisher if you have been trained and are familiar with its operation. Improper use can cause the fire to spread and may damage your home.

Consider the following:

- Fire extinguishers are rated for different kinds of fires. A qualified trainer will explain these differences and help you understand the correct extinguisher for your home.
- Fire extinguishing chemical may damage your appliances. Yes, it will put out the fire but may cost a great deal in other damage. Any fire that can be extinguished by simple measures, like putting a lid on a pan, should be used.
- Store fire extinguishers near an exterior door. If you choose to fight a fire, you should always begin near your exit so fire cannot get between you and your escape route. This is a tactic firefighters never ignore.
- Smoke from a fire can make it difficult to see and breathe. The cloud of extinguishing material from a fire extinguisher can make it difficult to see and breathe as well. Again, know what you're getting into before using an extinguisher on a fire.
- Fire extinguisher training will provide you with an understanding of the steps needed to use it properly. While it's not difficult, an emergency situation often creates confusion and excitement, making routine tasks more difficult. Training and practice give you the skills necessary to operate safely during an emergency.