

The following RV Checklist is taken from our best selling (electronic) E-book :

[Checklists For RVers](http://rveducation101.com/detailedinformation.asp?ID=1426) <http://rveducation101.com/detailedinformation.asp?ID=1426>

## **C**hecklist 38

### **RV Fire Safety Checklist**

Did you know that there are 6,000 to 20,000 reported RV fires each year? A large percentage of these fires are transmission related fires on motor homes. Automatic transmission fluid leaking from the transmission can ignite, and quickly spread if it contacts any portion of the exhaust system. Before traveling in your RV inspect the underside for any signs of fluid leaking. Have any potential leaks checked out and repaired immediately. Over 25% of RV fires are caused by shorts in the 12-volt electrical system.

Not only do you need a fire extinguisher, you need to inspect it before each trip:

- Check to make sure the extinguisher is charged. Look to see if the arrow is pointing in the green area in the sight gauge.
- If it reads empty or needs charging replace it or have it recharged immediately.
- If it's a dry powder type fire extinguisher the arrow pointing in the green doesn't always guarantee that it will work. Every month you should turn dry powder extinguishers upside down, tap on the bottom of the extinguisher and shake it so the powder that settled on the bottom is released.
- Inspect all components of the extinguisher to make sure it is in proper operating condition. Inspect the safety pin, handle or trigger, indicator, inspection tag, hose or nozzle, tank, and labeling.

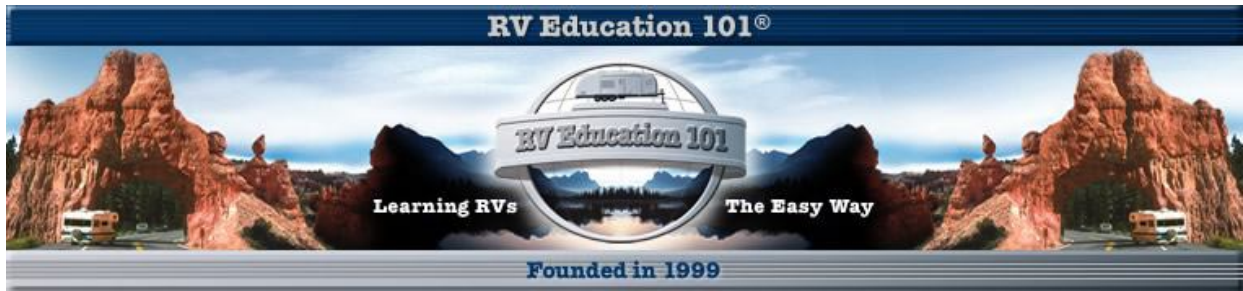
**Understanding the different types of fire extinguishers:** There are basically four different types, or classes of fire extinguishers, **A, B, C,** and **D**, and each type is for a specific type of fire.

**Class A** extinguishers are used for fires caused by ordinary combustibles like paper and wood.

**Class B** extinguishers are used for fires caused by flammable liquids like grease, gasoline and oil.

**Class C** extinguishers are used for fires caused by electrical equipment.

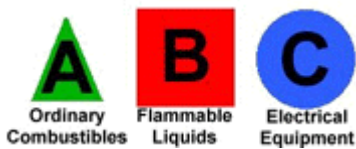
**Class D** extinguishers are used for fires on flammable metals and often they are specific for the type of metal it is.



Some fire extinguishers have multi class ratings like, **AB**, **BC** or **ABC** which means one fire extinguisher can be used to put out different types of fires. The National Fire Protection Agency rules that RV's must have a "**BC**" rated fire extinguisher near the exit. "**BC**" rated

fire extinguishers are used for flammable liquids and gasses like grease, gasoline and oil, and for electrical fires. Get everybody who will be in the RV together, and make sure they understand the different types of fire extinguishers you have and where they are located in the event of an emergency.

The old style labeling for fire extinguishers, to designate what type of fire they are used for was with the letter A, B, C or D

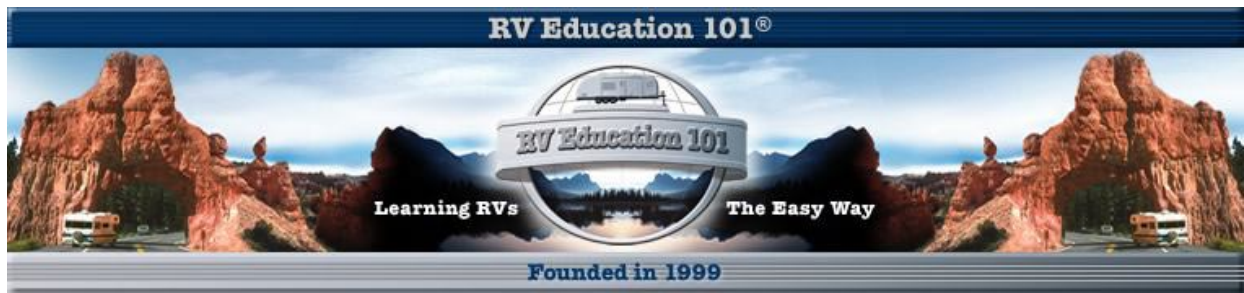


Newer labeling for fire extinguishers includes a picture designating the type of fire it is used for.



If it can be used for multiple types of fires it will show the pictures for the types of fires it can be used for and it will have a red diagonal line through the picture of what it cannot be used for.





Having these fire extinguishers available is a great idea but they are worthless if you and the other people traveling in the RV don't know how to properly use them. The next step is to teach all of the adults traveling in the RV how to properly use a fire extinguisher. Children should not attempt to fight fires. Teach everybody to remember the word **PASS**. This is an easy way to remember how to use a fire extinguisher, especially during an emergency. **PASS** stands for **Pull, Aim, Squeeze and Sweep**.

**P-** Pull the pin located at the top of the fire extinguisher.

**A-** Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire, not at the flames.

**S-** Squeeze the handle or trigger, standing approximately 8 feet away from the fire. Release the handle if you want it to stop.

**S-** Sweep the nozzle side to side at the base of the fire until it is out. Observe the fire to make sure it does not re-ignite.

**Note:** Check the individual fire extinguisher for the distance you should stand from the fire. Different extinguishing agents require different distances.

If a fire starts in or around the RV:

- ✓ Get everybody out of the RV and away from the fire safely.
- ✓ Have somebody call 911 for help.
- ✓ Most importantly, do not risk your personal safety. If you cannot extinguish the fire in the first minute or so let the professionals handle it.

**In the event of a fire always remember you save lives first & property second!**

**For more information on RV safety check out our RV Safety Features, Tips & Tricks DVD available at**

[www.rveducation101.com](http://www.rveducation101.com)

