

# ABC Rated Fire Extinguishers

**RTG Captains encourage all neighbors to have a fully serviced ABC Extinguisher**

**ABC rated fire extinguishers extinguish three classes of fires**

- A. Wood, trash, paper
- B. Liquids and gasses
- C. Energized electrical

## **Important aspects**

ABC extinguishers have a life of about twelve years. Normally they are dated and tagged at the time of purchase so one can determine the number of years it has been in active service. They are fitted with a plastic safety seal to assure the pin at the handle has not been removed at any time.

Each extinguisher has a gauge with a pointer: pointer in the green zone means the extinguisher is fully active: pointer in the red "recharge" zone means the extinguisher should be recharged or, alternatively, should be replaced with a new extinguisher. In general, the cost of recharging is less (~\$20) than purchasing a new extinguisher(~\$50). Check this BEFORE your ABC extinguisher reaches eleven years of age. You should reach out to a licensed fire extinguisher purveyor to determine what course of action you wish to take.

Finally, if your ABC extinguisher is within the 12 year life, it is a good idea, every three years or so, to turn it upside down, tap the bottom of the extinguisher with a rubber mallet or piece of wood and shake it vigorously. This is done because, with time, some of the fire retardant particles may fall to the bottom. The idea is to re-disburse them so the extinguisher will be maximally effective.