



FIRE EXTINGUISHER SELECTION AND USE

Fire extinguishers are an integral element in the emergency management system at the University. While portable fire extinguishers are simple to use, there are some basic points to remember about the selection and operation of fire extinguishers if confronted by a fire.

Selecting a fire extinguisher

The selection of a fire extinguisher is governed according to the class of fire. The table below outlines which fire extinguisher should be used to extinguish the class of fire.

FIRE EQUIPMENT USAGE CHART							
YES NO TYPE OF EXTINGUISHER <small>Colour scheme - AS 2444</small> <small>Pre 1997 Post 1997</small>		A Wood, Paper & Plastic	B Flammable & Combustible Liquids	C Flammable Gases	E Energised Electrical Equipment	F Cooking Oils & Fats	<small>NOTES: "Limited" indicates that the extinguisher is not the agent of choice for the class of fire, but that it will have limited extinguishing capability Class D fires (involving combustible metals) use only special purpose extinguishers and seek expert advice.</small> <small>COMMENTS (Refer Appendix A of AS 2444)</small>
		✓	✓	✓	✓		Special Powders are available specifically for various types of metal fires. Seek expert advice.
			✓	✓	✓	✓	Special Powders are available specifically for various types of metal fires. Seek expert advice.
					✓		Generally not suitable for outdoor fires. Suitable only for small fires.
		✓					Dangerous if used on flammable liquid, energised electrical equipment and cooking oil/fat fires.
		✓	✓				Dangerous if used on energised electrical equipment.
		✓				✓	Dangerous if used on energised electrical equipment.
		✓			✓		Check the characteristics of the specific extinguisher.
						✓	Use blanket to wrap around a human torch. Ensure you replace the blanket with a new one after use.
		✓					Ensure you maintain a path of egress between you and the nearest exit.

USING FIRE HOSE REELS

1. Turn on the stop valve
2. Run out the length of the hose as required
3. Turn on the water at the nozzle, direct the stream at base of fire
4. Ensure you leave a direct egress path between you and the nearest exit door/egress route.



NB: Fire hose reels should only be used if safe to do so

USING FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

1. Ensure that you use the correct extinguisher
2. Always keep an emergency exit behind you (away from the fire)
3. Stay low to avoid the effects of heat and smoke
4. Direct the extinguisher stream at the base of the flames
5. Move stream in a side to side sweeping motion
6. If the fire gets to the point where you are no longer able to control it, retreat and close the doors



NB: Fire extinguishers should only be used if safe to do so

Operating a Fire Extinguisher

Fire extinguishers should only be used when it is safe to do so. When using a fire extinguisher there are some basic principles which can be easily remembered from the acronym PASS:

- P** **Pull** the Pin – Break seal and test extinguisher
- A** **Aim** at the base of the fire – Ensure you have a means of escape
- S** **Squeeze** the top handle or lever – To operate extinguisher and discharge agent
- S** **Sweep** from side to side – Completely extinguish the fire

Before attempting to extinguish a fire always raise the alarm and seek assistance. When attempting to fight the fire ensure you have a safe means of exit – Never let the fire get between you and the exit.