

GET TO KNOW YOUR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Water



- ✓ Inexpensive
- ✓ Readily available
- ✓ Can be used on Class A

- ! May be dangerous on other classes of fire
- ! Must not be used on fires involving energised electrical equipment.

Foam



Used for common flammable liquid fires involving petrol, oil or paint, solvents that mix with water such as alcohol and acetone.

- ✓ Lasting layer that controls fire after extinguisher discharge
- ✓ Can be used as vapour-suppression barrier over flammable-liquid spills

- ✓ Can be used on Class A, Class B, Class F - limited
- ! Must not be used on fires involving energised electrical equipment.

CO2



Gaseous extinguisher stored at high pressure in a liquid state.

- ✓ Safe for fires involving energised equipment
- ✓ Leaves no residue
- ✓ Used on Class E

- ! Not recommended for Class A
- ! Discharge range is short
- ! Ineffective in the presence of strong air movement

Wet Chemical



Aqueous solution typically of alkali metal salts.

- ✓ Rapid knockdown
- ✓ Lasting foam like blanket to control the fire after the extinguisher discharge is complete

- ✓ Used on Class A and Class F
- ! May irritate eyes or skin
- ! Dangerous on fires involving energised electrical equipment

Powder ABE



ABE is usually based on monoammonium.

- ✓ Rapid knockdown
- ✓ When dry can be cleaned up with vacuum cleaner or damp cloth.
- ✓ Used on Class A, B, C and E

- ! Forms a dense cloud of powder which may temporarily restrict vision
- ! May cause respiratory irritation

Powder BE



BE is usually based on sodium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate or potassium chloride.

- ✓ Rapid knock-down. When dry can be cleaned up with vacuum cleaner or damp cloth.
- ✓ Used on Class B, C, E
- ✓ Used on Class B, C, E
- ! Forms a dense cloud of powder which may temporarily restrict vision
- ! May cause respiratory irritation and F

CLASSIFICATIONS

- Class A** Fires that involve solid materials like paper, wood and textiles
- Class B** Fires that involve liquids like oils, petrol or diesel
- Class C** Fires that involve flammable gasses, such as propane, butane and methane
- Class D** Fires that involve metals like aluminum, magnesium, titanium
- Class E** Fires that involve electrical equipment
- Class F** Fires that involve cooking oils and fats, such as deep-fat fryers