



Promoting Quality in Fire Safety



A Practical Guide to Buying and Using the right Fire Extinguisher



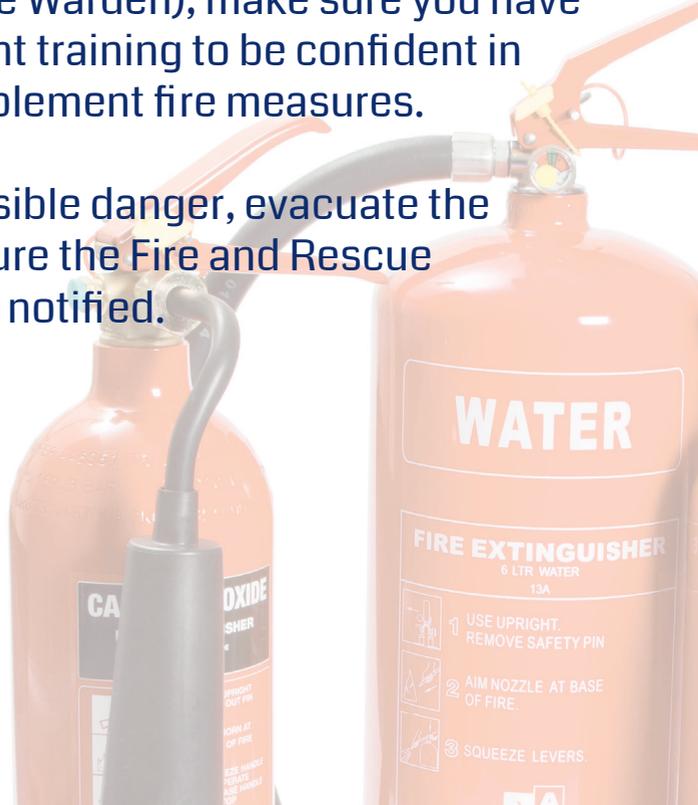
General Information

Always make sure you are aware of and follow your company's fire procedure.

Always raise the Fire Alarm before attempting to extinguish the fire.

If you are a nominated person to perform fire safety procedures for your company (Health and Safety Officer/Fire Warden), make sure you have received sufficient training to be confident in your ability to implement fire measures.

If in doubt or possible danger, evacuate the building and ensure the Fire and Rescue Service has been notified.



Which Extinguisher to Use

A survey showed that over 88% of fires were successfully extinguished with a portable fire extinguisher without intervention from the Fire and Rescue Service.

	Freely burning materials	Flammable liquids	Flammable gases	Flammable metals	Electrical equipment	Cooking oils and fats
CLASS	A	B	C	D	Electrical	F
WATER	●					
FOAM	●	●				
(ABC) DRY POWDER	●	●	●		●	
SPECIAL POWDER				●		
CARBON DIOXIDE		●			●	
WET CHEMICAL	●					●

A large, semi-transparent image of a red fire extinguisher is overlaid on the right side of the page. The word "WATER" is printed in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the front of the extinguisher's body.

WATER

Purchasing and Installation

In the guidance documents provided for fire safety legislation (England and Wales / Scotland / Northern Ireland) the recommendation is that part of an employers' measures for protecting their staff and others from fire is to install independently tested and certified fire extinguishers.

Both the DCLG (Department for Communities and Local Government) and the Fire & Rescue Services recommend extinguishers approved to the European Standard BS EN3 and compliant with the BS 7863 colour coding specification.

Third Party Certified BAFE registered companies provide extinguishers to these standards and install to BS 5306-8 and commission (skilled checks made on-site) to BS 5306-3.

All workplaces will require the provision of a minimum of two water based extinguishers as primary protection.

In addition all other classes of risks such as electrical equipment and flammable liquids need to be separately addressed and the relevant extinguishers provided. A Fire Risk Assessment will identify all requirements/actions needed. For your Fire Risk Assessment use a Third Party Certified BAFE registered SP205 (Life Safety Fire Risk Assessment) company. Search free for a company near you on the BAFE website.



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Siting of Extinguishers

Fire Extinguishers should be located in conspicuous positions, available at all times for immediate use.

Extinguishers should be securely hung on wall brackets with the carrying handle of larger heavier extinguishers 1 metre from the floor. For smaller extinguishers (not heavier than 4kg), the carrying handle should be mounted 1.5 metres from the floor.

Where this is impractical extinguishers should be located on suitable floor stands. In schools and similar locations it is preferable to use recessed housing, suitable cabinets or extinguisher covers.

Extinguishers should generally be sited in such a way that it is not necessary to travel more than 30 metres from the site of a fire to reach an extinguisher. For flammable liquid, cooking oil/fat or electrical risks the travel distance should not exceed 10 metres.

To avoid confusion, all extinguishers installed in any one building or single occupancy should have the same method of operation and if intended for the same function should be similar in shape, appearance and colour. The position and type of fire extinguisher should be indicated by a sign.

Wherever possible, portable extinguishers should be grouped to form a fire point (an area with multiple exit options, extinguishers and a means to raise the alarm).



Sign example



Maintenance

Extinguishers should be regularly checked by the nominated person to make sure that appliances are in their proper position and have not been tampered with. They should also be routinely inspected by a competent service technician to ensure they have not been discharged or lost pressure.

The UK servicing standard BS 5306 Part 3 puts the responsibility on the user (i.e. the company) to use a competent person to perform the annual inspections, install, commission (skilled checks made to the extinguisher on-site), service and test discharge fire extinguishers. They should also replace extinguishers that are no longer usable with serviceable extinguishers.

The right extinguisher from the right supplier.

Comply with guidelines and maintain your extinguishers using a company registered to BAFE Scheme SP101/ST104 (Contract Maintenance of Portable Fire Extinguishers incorporating Registered Fire Extinguisher Service Technicians)

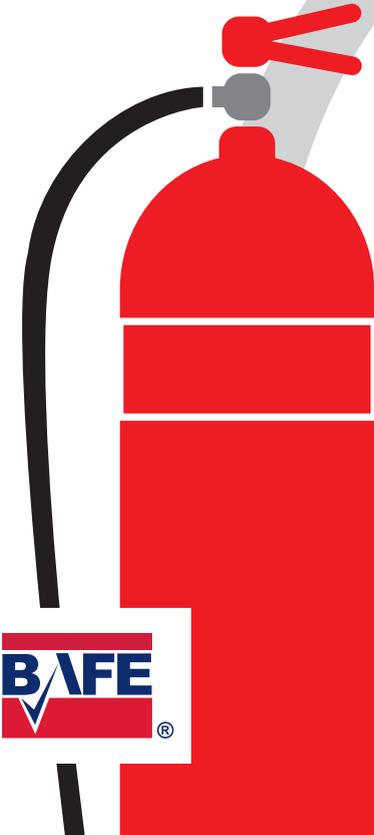
You can search FREE to find a Third Party Certified company registered to BAFE Scheme SP101/ST104 on the BAFE website



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Suitable for fires involving solid materials usually of an organic nature.

1. Direct the jet at the base of the flame and keep it moving across the area of the flame.
2. Seek out any hot spots after the main fire is extinguished.
3. A fire spreading vertically should be attacked at its lowest point and followed upwards.



Suitable for fires involving solid materials and flammable liquids apart from cooking oil fires but not recommended for use on 'running fires'.

1. Where the liquid on fire is in a container, direct the spray at the back edge of the container, or at an adjoining vertical surface above the level of the burning liquid. This allows the foam to build up and flow across the surface of the liquid to smother the fire.
2. Where this is not possible stand well back and direct the spray with a gentle sweeping movement. Allow the foam to drop down and lie on the surface of the liquid.
3. Do not aim the spray directly into the liquid as this will drive the foam beneath the surface and render it ineffective. In addition, it may splash the fire onto the surroundings.



Suitable for fires involving solid materials, flammable liquids or electrical apparatus, although not suitable against fires in which part of the fire surface is shielded.

Dry powder extinguishers are not usually specified for indoor use but if they are this should be acknowledged by a health and safety risk assessment. Small dry powder extinguishers can be used indoors with caution as there are instances of irritating respiratory organs, eyes and skin. If in doubt, evacuate the building and ensure the Fire and Rescue Service has been notified.

1. On fires involving either liquids in containers or spilled liquids, direct the nozzle towards the near edge of the fire. With a rapid sweeping motion drive the fire towards the far edge until all the flames are extinguished.
2. On fires involving flowing liquids, direct the nozzle at the base of the flames and sweep upwards.
3. On fires in electrical equipment, switch off the current if safe to do so and then direct the nozzle straight at the fire.
4. Where the equipment is enclosed, direct the nozzle into any opening with the object of penetrating the interior.
5. When the fire appears to be extinguished, shut off the discharge and wait until the atmosphere clears. If any flame is then still visible, discharge again.
6. Do NOT use dry power on straw or animal bedding.



CARBON DIOXIDE

Suitable for fires involving flammable liquids or electrical apparatus.

Carbon Dioxide extinguishers should NOT be used in confined spaces where there is a danger fumes may be inhaled. When using a CO₂ extinguisher, discharge and then walk away from the area to avoid asphyxiation. Carbon Dioxide extinguishers work by displacing/replacing oxygen.

1. On fires involving either liquids in containers or spilled liquids, direct the nozzle towards the near edge of the fire. With a rapid sweeping motion drive the fire towards the far edge until all the flames are extinguished.
2. On fires involving flowing class B liquids , direct the nozzle at the base of the flames and sweep upwards.
3. On fires in electrical equipment, switch off the current if safe to do so and then direct the nozzle straight at the fire.
4. Where the equipment is enclosed, direct the nozzle into any opening with the object of penetrating the interior.
5. When the fire appears to be extinguished, shut off the discharge and wait until the atmosphere clears. If any flame is then still visible, discharge again.
6. Do NOT hold the horn since it becomes extremely cold during use.



WET CHEMICAL

Specifically for use on fires in deep fat fryers.

Do NOT use on fires involving live electrical equipment.

1. Turn off the source of heat if safe to do so.
2. Hold the lance at arms length, well above the fire with the nozzle at least 1 metre away from the fire.
3. Holding the lance still, discharge so that the spraying wet chemical falls gently onto the surface of the fire.
4. Even if the fire appears to go out quickly, continue to discharge the entire contents of the extinguisher onto the fire.





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Every effort is made to ensure that the information provided is accurate and up to date.

No legal responsibility is accepted for any errors or omissions.

1 USE UPRIGHT
PULL OUT PIN

2 AIM HORN AT
BASE OF FIRE

3 SQUEEZE HANDLE



4 NOZZLE AT BASE
OF FIRE.

3 SQUEEZE LEVER