








Risk Management & Insurance Churches

R. Portable Fire Extinguisher Guide

Current	Extinguishing Agent		Type of fire, class and suitability					Comments	D Metal fires
			A	B	C	E	F		
			Wood, paper, plastic	Flammable & combustible liquids	Flammable gases	Electrically energised equipment	Cooking oils & fats		
	Water		✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	Dangerous if used on flammable liquid, energised electrical equipment and cooking oil/fat fires	Use only special purpose extinguishers and seek expert advice
	Wet chemical		✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	Dangerous if used on energised electrical equipment	
	Foam*		✓	✓	✗	✗	LIMITED	Dangerous if used on energised electrical equipment	
	Powder	(ABE)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	Look carefully at the extinguisher to determine if it is a BE or ABE unit as the capability is different	
		(BE)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Carbon Dioxide		LIMITED	LIMITED	✗	✓	✗	Not suitable for outdoor use or smouldering deep seated A Class Fires	
	Fire Blanket		LIMITED*	LIMITED	✗	✗	✓	*Fire blankets may be used as a thermal barrier against radiated heat and to control a fire in clothes being worn by a person	

✓ = the class or classes in which agent is most effective

✗ = not recommend for the class of fires

LIMITED = indicates that the extinguishant is not the agent of choice for the class of fire, but it may have a limited extinguishing capability

*Solvents such as alcohol or acetone mix with water and therefore require special foam

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