

PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER GUIDE



Type of Fire, Class and Suitability

Pre 1997	Current	Extinguishing Agent	A Wood Paper Plastic	B Flammable & Combustible Liquids	C Flammable Gases	E Electrically Energised Equipment	F Cooking Oils and Fats	Comments	D Metal Fires
		Water	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	Dangerous if used on flammable liquid, energised electrical equipment and cooking oil/fat fires	
		Wet Chemical	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	Dangerous if used on energised electrical equipment	
		Foam*	YES	YES	NO	NO	LIMITED	Dangerous if used on energised electrical equipment	
		Powder	(ABE) YES (BE) NO	YES YES	YES YES	YES YES	NO YES	Look carefully at the extinguisher to determine if it is a BE or ABE unit as the capability is different	
		Carbon Dioxide	LIMITED	LIMITED	NO	YES	NO	Not suitable for outdoor use or smouldering deep seated A Class Fires	
		Vaporising Liquid	YES	LIMITED	LIMITED	YES	NO	Check the characteristics of the specific extinguishing agent. 5 Yearly servicing must be done by ODS & SGG licenced persons.	
		Fire Blanket	LIMITED*	LIMITED	NO	NO	YES	*Fire Blankets may be used as a thermal barrier against radiated heat and to control a fire in clothes being worn by a person.	

Use only special purpose extinguishers and seek expert advice.

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

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

