



# Fire Safety Information Sheet

Quick reference table	(A) Freely Burning Materials	(B) Flammable Liquids	(C) Flammable Gases	(D) Flammable Metals	Electrical Equipment	(F) Cooking Oils & Fats
Water	✓					
Foam	✓	✓				
Dry Powder (ABC)	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Carbon Dioxide (CO2)		✓			✓	
Wet Chemical	✓					✓
Special Powder				✓		

## Purchasing and Installation



In the guidance document to the Fire Precautions (work place) Regulations 1997 (as amended) the Government strongly recommends the installation of independently tested and certified extinguishers as part of an employers' measures for protecting their staff and others from fire. Both the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the Fire Brigades recommend extinguishers approved to the European Standards BS EN3 and compliant with BS7863 colour coding specification. FETA member companies provide extinguishers to these standards and install and maintain to BS5306. Most workplaces will require the provision of a minimum of 2 water based extinguishers as primary protection.

In addition, all other classes of risk such as electrical equipment and flammable liquids need to be separately assessed and the appropriate extinguishers provided.

## Siting of extinguishers



Extinguishers should be located in conspicuous positions, available at all times for immediate use and fitted on brackets or stands where they will be readily seen by all persons following an escape route. Fire extinguishers should be securely hung on wall brackets. Where this is impractical, extinguishers should be located on suitable stands (not on the floor). If wall mounted the carrying handle of larger, heavier extinguishers should be 1 metre from the floor but smaller extinguishers should be mounted so the carrying handle is 1.5 metres from the floor. Extinguishers should be sited so no point is more than 30 metres from them. 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, colour and appearance. Where possible extinguishers should be grouped to form a fire point.

## Maintenance



Extinguishers should be routinely inspected by the user at not less than quarterly and preferably at least monthly intervals, to make sure that appliances are in their proper position and have not been discharged or lost pressure.

The user should replace extinguishers not available by servicable extinguishers. Annual inspection, service and test discharging should be carried out by a competent person. The UK servicing standard BS5306 part 3 puts the onus on the end user to employ a competent person and that extinguishers should be serviced to that standard and the manufacturers recommended procedure.

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## Training



All people regularly employed in a workplace should be aware of the risk of fire, in particular:

- How to summon the Fire Brigade.
- How to warn others of the fire including the operation of fire warning apparatus.
- The location and use of escape routes.
- The procedure for assisting visitors or members of the public from the workplace.
- The location of the fire assembly point or points.
- How to use the fire equipment provided.

## Water

### How to use a fire extinguisher



*Suitable for most fires except those involving liquids or live electrical apparatus.*

- 1: Direct the jet at the base of the flame and keep it moving across the area of the fire.
- 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.

## Foam

*Suitable for most fires involving flammable liquids, apart from cooking oil 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 to smother the fire.
- 2: Where this is not possible, stand well back, 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. It may also splash the fire onto the surroundings.

## Dry Chemical (Powder)

*Suitable for most fires involving flammable liquids or electrical appliances.*



- 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 of the fire until all 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 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.

## Carbon Dioxide

*Suitable for fires involving flammable liquids or electrical appliances.*



Method and operating instructions as for dry powder. Additional Notes:

Carbon Dioxide extinguishers should not be used in confined areas where there is a danger that fumes may be inhaled.

Do not hold by the horn since they become extremely cold during use.

## Wet Chemical

*Specifically for use on fires in deep fat fryers. Do not use on fire involving electrical equipment.*



- 1: Turn off the source of heat if safe to do so.
- 2: Hold the lance at arm's length, well above the fire with its 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, discharge the entire contents of the extinguisher.