














# Portable Fire Extinguisher Guide

		Extinguishing Agent	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D	Class E	Class F	Comments	
Pre 1997	Current		Wood Paper Plastics	Flammable & Combustible Liquids	Flammable Gasses	Metal Fires	Electrically Energised Equipment	Cooking Oils and Fats		
		<b>Water</b>	✓	✗	✗	Use only special purpose extinguishers and seek expert advice	✗	✗	Dangerous if used on flammable liquid, energised electrical equipment and cooking oil/fat fires	
		<b>Wet Chemical</b>	✓	✗	✗		✗	✓	Dangerous if used on energised electrical equipment	
		<b>Foam</b>	✓	✓	✗		✗	Limited	Dangerous if used on energised electrical equipment	
		<b>Powder</b>	(ABE) ✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✗	Check extinguisher to determine if it is a ABE or BE unit as the capability is different
			(BE) ✗	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
		<b>Carbon Dioxide</b>	Limited	Limited	✗		✓	✗	Not suitable for outdoor use or smouldering deep seated A Class Fires	
		<b>Vapourising Liquid</b>	✓	Limited	Limited	✓	✗	Check the characteristics of the specific extinguishing agent		
		<b>Fire Blanket</b>	Limited	Limited	✗	✗	✓	Fire Blankets may be used as a thermal barrier against radiated heat and control a fire in clothes being worn by a person		

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

✗ = not recommended for these class of fires

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

Fire extinguishers are a small first attack fire appliance. If you do not feel confident in operating one in an emergency situation, leave it.

**Do not put yourself at risk.  
Alert others in the vicinity and contact the Fire Brigade 000**

You should know the **PASS**-word for using portable fire extinguisher

- P**ull the pin or release any other locking device
- A**im low, pointing the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire
- S**queeze the handle to release the extinguishing agent
- S**weep from side to side at the base of the fire until the fire is extinguished

Remember, fire extinguishers are for small fires only, don't endanger yourself when using them.

If you have used an extinguisher you should arrange to have it recharged immediately.



Facilities and Services  
V1.09

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