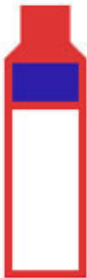


# [www.dontgivefireahome.com](http://www.dontgivefireahome.com)

## Fire Safety with Extinguishers

### Standard or multi-purpose (Dry Powder)



#### Application

Safe for general use. Multi-purpose powders have a wider range of application and are more effective in impeding and smothering fire.

#### Dangers

Fires which appear to be out can re-ignite. Unable to 'flow' into small enclosed spaces, electrical switchgear or penetrate deep seated fires in solids.

#### Use

Aim jet at base of flames and use with brisk sweeping motion. Repeat until out.

## Water



#### Application

For use only on solids such as wood, paper, cloth, etc. Not suitable for 'liquid fires' or live electricity.

## Dangers

Capable of conducting electrical current back to operator. Will markedly worsen fires in liquids, greases, etc.

## Use

Aim jet at base of flames and move across the area of fire until it is out

## Foam or AFFF



## Application

Conventional foams are not practical for home use. Multi-purpose 'AFFF', however, is extremely effective in all ways and is suitable for general use.

## Dangers

'Jet' foams may conduct electrical current back to the operator. 'Spray' foams, however, are much less prone to this risk.

## Use

For liquids: aim foam at a vertical surface (or inside edge of container) and allow to flow over surface. For solids see 'water' above.

## Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)



## Application

Not recommended for home use, but are quite effective and can be used on all domestic fire types. Smothers by replacing oxygen.

## Dangers

Offers little cooling and can be displaced by draughts: these effects can lead to re-ignition. Poses an asphyxiant risk by replacing air/oxygen. Early ventilation is required after extinction. Noise from discharge horn can cause concern to operator.

## Use

Direct gas stream from discharge horn at base of flames and keep it moving across the area of the fire.

## Halons (Vapourising Liquids)



## Application

Not recommended for home use, but will knock the fire down quickly (by chemical interaction and smothering) and can be used on all domestic types.

## Dangers

Shares some dangers of CO<sub>2</sub> but fumes can also be toxic in confined spaces or if used on hot metal surfaces. The ozone depleting potential of Halons has further discouraged their use.

## Use

Direct vapour jet into the flames and then gradually lower the jet- taking care not to spread burning materials.

**Portable fire extinguishers are only** designed to be used to tackle fire in its very early stages, and you should ensure that the fire brigade has been called. A fire should not be tackled if it has started to spread to other items in the room or if the room is filling with smoke. If you cannot put out the fire or

the fire extinguisher becomes empty move away from the fire closing any doors behind you.

**All new fire extinguishers should** comply with BS EN3: 1996. This requires them to be coloured red with a zone of colour which indicates the contents. Extinguishers manufactured prior to this date should conform to BS 5423: 1987 and these are still acceptable until such times as they are replaced. Choose extinguishers that carry a kite mark or the special British Approvals for Fire Equipment (BAFE) mark. A list of approved companies who supply equipment can be obtained from BAFE.

**Portable fire extinguishers can be** categorised by their contents. This may make them particularly suitable for use on a particular type of fire and dangerous on others. Portable fire extinguishers must never be used on oil or fat pan fires in the home as the jet from the extinguisher may force burning fat out of the pan. A fire blanket is recommended for this type of fire.

**Portable fire extinguishers should be** affixed to a wall at a convenient height, on escape routes or outside living areas and close to specific risks as well as out of the reach of children.

**Fire blankets should conform to** BS 6575. Some are designed to be thrown away after use or used again after laundering, so refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

## **Some handy hints**

- **Don't** put yourself in danger and always keep yourself between the fire and the exit.
- **Don't** place extinguishers over cookers, heaters or places of extreme heat.
- **Do** read the instructions.
- **Do** recharge the extinguisher if fully or partially discharged.
- **Do** service properly once a year or in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

**If you require further information contact your local Fire Service**

**Remember don't let fire extinguish your life**