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An introduction to Fire Extinguishers

And which ones to use, for various situations



Fire Extinguishers are portable cylinders filled with chemicals, etc and designed to tackle small-medium fires, and due to the various different types of fires (or more accurately; what fuels them), there are different types of extinguishers too - categorised into classes **A**, **B**, **C**, **E** and **F**, which are suited to specific fire risks.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER SPECIFICS...

Water	Foam	Powder	CO ₂ (Carbon Dioxide)	Vapourising Liquids	Wet Chemical
Water	Foam	POWDER			
Clear/RED	Cream	Blue	Black	Green	Yellow
Suitable for	Suitable for	Suitable for	Suitable for	Suitable for	Suitable for
Class A Paper Wood Textiles Fabric	<u>Class A</u> Paper Wood Textiles Fabric	<u>Class A</u> Paper Wood Textiles Fabric	<u>Class B</u> Flammable Liquids <u>Class E</u> Electrical	<u>Class A</u> Paper Wood Textiles Fabric	<u>Class A</u> Paper Wood Textiles Fabric
Fires	<u>Class B</u> Flammable Liquids	<u>Class B</u> Flammable Liquids	Fires	<u>Class B</u> Flammable Liquids	Class F Oils and Fats
	& in Vehicle Protection Fires	<u>Class C</u> Flammable Gases		<u>Class C</u> Flammable Gases	11103
		<u>Class E</u> Electrical		<u>Class E</u> Electrical	
		& in Vehicle Protection		& in Vehicle Protection	
		Fires		Fires	

BE AWARE: that both **WATER** (Clear/Red) and **FOAM** (Cream) extinguishers **CANNOT** be used against any kind of electrical fires, or indeed where live electricity, due to the water element in both cylinders being a conductive of electrical current... and in doing so puts the user (and others) at **SERIOUS RISK OF DEATH** via electric shock. The other 4 above are considered safe to use with/around electricity.

Under Section 156 of the Building Safety Act 2022, Fire Safety Regs (amendment) 2023 each extinguisher should be colour coded to BS EN3:1996 and Fire Risk Assessments should be carried out at every premises, regardless of size, or purpose.

So please bear this in mind, if carrying out safety checks at your work premises.

In Part B, we'll try to give (ADVISORY) tips and tricks into HOW to use a Fire Extinguisher...

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Scaffold Technical Support

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