














Portable Fire Extinguisher Guide

Type of Fire, Class and Suitability

Pre 1997	Current	Extinguishing Agent	A	B	C	E	F	Comments	D
			Wood Paper Plastic	Flammable & Combustible Liquids	Flammable Gases	Electrically Energised Equipment	Cooking Oils and Fats		Metal Fires
		Water	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	Dangerous if used on flammable liquid, energised electrical equipment and cooking oil/fat fires	Use only special purpose extinguishers and seek expert advice.
		Wet Chemical	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	Dangerous if used on energised electrical equipment	
		Foam*	✓	✓	✗	✗	LIMITED	Dangerous if used on energised electrical equipment	
		Powder	(ABE) ✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	Look carefully at the extinguisher to determine if it is a BE or ABE unit as the capability is different	
			(BE) ✗	✓	✓	✓	✓		
		Carbon Dioxide	LIMITED	LIMITED	✗	✓	✗	Not suitable for outdoor use or smouldering deep seated A Class Fires	
		Vaporising Liquid	✓	LIMITED	LIMITED	✓	✗	Check the characteristics of the specific extinguishing agent. 5 Yearly servicing must be done by ODS & SGG licenced persons.	
		Fire Blanket	LIMITED*	LIMITED	✗	✗	✓	* Fire Blankets may be used as a thermal barrier against radiated heat and to control a fire in clothes being worn by a person.	

LEGEND

✓ = the class or classes in which agent is most effective
 ✗ = not recommend for these class of fires

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

For more information go to: www.fpa.com.au

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