

**There are some obsolete fire extinguishers. They are:**

1. Vaporizing Liquid Extinguishers
2. Soda-Acid Extinguishers
3. Cartridge-Operated Water Extinguishers
4. Foam Type Extinguishers
5. Halon

If any of these extinguishers are found, they should be replaced with currently available extinguishers.

Inspect extinguishers annually to have reliable fire protection. Check the pressure gauge (if so equipped) or weigh the unit to determine if it has been partially used. The powder in certain dry chemical extinguishers may tend to pack. These extinguishers may need to be recharged every year.

### SELECTION AND PLACEMENT OF EXTINGUISHERS

Correct selection, placement and accessibility is extremely important to assure that a fire is controlled in the earliest stages. All extinguisher selection and placement should be based upon NFPA 10, and any local codes and/or regulations.

When selecting the number and type of extinguishers to be installed in a facility, it is important to consider not only the class of fuel involved (Class A, B, C, D, and/or combination thereof) but the size of the fire load (amount of combustibles) contained within the structure.

In general, the best location for extinguishers is just inside the door or entrance to a building. Avoid putting extinguishers right next to where a fire is apt to develop; you might not be able to get to it through smoke, heat, or flames. Placement should be based upon compliance with NFPA #10 and/or local codes that might apply.

### USE OF EXTINGUISHERS

The mere presence of an extinguisher is not worthwhile unless you:

- Learn how to use the device properly,
- Instruct family members and employees who may have to use it, and
- Maintain and recharge it according to the manufacturer's instructions.



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# Fire Extinguishers

**For Home, Farm  
And Business  
For Safety's Sake!**



**Insuring Our  
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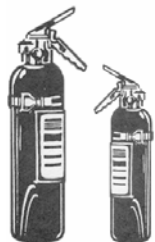


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HEAD OFFICE

WALDHEIM, SASKATCHEWAN

Proper selection and distribution of portable fire extinguishers is essential for extinguishing fires. Quick action in using an extinguisher of the proper type can result in the extinguishment of many fires with only minor damage. Extinguishers are designed to cope with fire of limited size; therefore, if response is not quick, the fire will soon be too large to control.



## PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Virtually all fires could be easily extinguished in the early stages if the proper type and amount of extinguishing material is quickly and properly applied. Portable fire extinguishers are designed for this purpose, but their successful use depends on the following:

1. The extinguisher is properly located, easily accessible and is in good working condition.
2. The extinguisher is the proper type for the fire you are fighting.
3. The fire is discovered early enough and is small enough for the extinguisher to be effective.
4. The person using the extinguisher has the skills necessary to effectively operate and use the extinguisher to fight the fire.

Prevention should be the primary concern, but in case of a fire, fighting a fire should be your third priority:

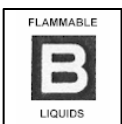
1. First, turn in an alarm to the local fire department.
2. Second, get the people out!
3. Fight the fire only if it can be done safely with the extinguishing material at hand.

## CLASSES OF FIRE

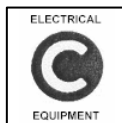
Because different extinguishing agents must be used on different kinds of fires, the National Fire Protection Association Standard #10 – “Standard for portable Fire Extinguishers” – classifies fires into the following four types:



**CLASS A FIRES** – Involve ordinary combustible materials such as wood, cloth, paper, rubber, many plastics, straw, hat, etc. The cooling effect of water is the most effective method of extinguishing these type of fires. Certain types of dry chemicals and halogenated agents will extinguish these type of fires.



**CLASS B FIRES** – Involve flammable liquids such as gasoline, LPG, oil, grease, paint, pesticides. Class B Fires are extinguished by oxygen exclusion, inhibiting the release of combustible vapors, or interrupting the combustion chain reaction.



**CLASS C FIRES** – Involve energized electrical equipment such as appliances, motors, and wiring. Water should never be used on an electrical fire because of the potential shock hazard. Carbon dioxide and halogenated agents are the preferred extinguishing agents on these fires because they don't leave a residue that corrodes electrical equipment, or causes future “shorting” problems, or causes difficult clean-up problems.



**CLASS D FIRES** – Involve combustible metals, such as magnesium potassium, and powdered aluminum, to name just a few. These types of fires are extinguished by a heat-absorbing extinguishing medium that doesn't react with the burning metal.

## LISTING AND RATINGS

To assist purchasers of extinguishers, manufacturers whose extinguishers have been tested and approved will affix a label to the extinguisher indicating that the extinguisher is listed by UL or FM. This label will provide: clearly marked operating instructions, what to do with the extinguisher after discharging, clearly marked maintenance instructions, clearly marked rating (example 2-A:10-B:C), and a UL and/or FM symbol.

Rating numbers found on the label indicate what class or classes of fire the extinguisher is rated for and the relative extinguishing capacity on those classes of fire. **For example, an extinguisher with a rating of 2-A:10-B:C would be safe and effective if used on Class A, B, and C fires. An extinguisher with a rating of 2-A has only been tested and listed for Class A fires.**

The rating numerals that proceed the Class A and Class B indicate the relative fire fighting capacity of that extinguisher as determined by standard reproducible test fires. An extinguisher with a 4-A rating should put out more fire than one with a 2-A, but not necessarily twice as much. The ratings are only relative.

No rating numerals are used for extinguishers labeled for Class C fires. Electrical equipment has either ordinary combustibles, flammable liquids, or both, as part of its construction. An extinguisher for Class C fires should be selected according to the nature of the combustibles in the immediate area.

Extinguishers that are effective on more than one class of fire have multiple “letter” and “numeral-letter” classifications and ratings, shown on the labels applied to each extinguisher.

It is important to understand that extinguishers of the sizes discussed have a discharge time of *only 8 to 12 seconds in actual use*. No time can be wasted!

Operating instructions are given on each listed or approved extinguisher. When possible, families and employees should practice using extinguishers in a safe outdoor location.