






Fire Extinguisher Selection, Use and Maintenance

Care and Maintenance

- Assure that the correct extinguishers are available for your facility's hazard types.
- Mount in plain sight, within required distances and free of obstructions.
- Conduct monthly visual inspections to confirm that extinguishers are charged, accessible and ready to use.
- Have a qualified inspector conduct annual maintenance checks. Be sure to record the dates of these inspections.
- Recharge or replace after use.

Fire Extinguisher Selection

Fire Class	Fuel Type	Extinguisher
	Ordinary combustibles (e.g., wood, paper, plastic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air-pressurized water (APW) Dry chemical (ABC)
	Flammable liquids and gases (e.g., oil, paint, natural gas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon dioxide (CO2) Dry chemical (ABC or BC)
	Energized electrical equipment (e.g., wiring, computers)	Dry chemical (ABC or BC)
	Metals	Class D (dry powder)
	Cooking fluids (e.g., fats, oils)	Class K (specialized dry/wet chemical)

Prior to use, make sure your extinguisher is appropriately classified for the type of fire occurring.

Different types of fires need different extinguishers.

Fire extinguishers are classified according to the kinds of fires they are designed to extinguish. The table on this page describes the different classes of fire, each class's fuel and the appropriate extinguisher for each.



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