

# Fire Safety Training

**No one should attempt to use an extinguisher unless they have had basic instruction. Use of extinguishers should ALWAYS be a last resort where needed to aid escape.**

In the event of a fire, you must:

- Raise the alarm by breaking a break glass panel /ringing fire bell.
- Ensure that you make your way to the nearest fire exit, closing doors and window IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO (this reduces the risk of fire spreading. A normal door will often hold backfire for a minimum of 15 minutes. )
- Phone the emergency services on the way out, if it is safe to do so
- Assemble in the designated assembly area
- Do not return to the premises until an authorised person has confirmed that it is safe to do so.



## Three elements of a fire

To create a fire three elements are required:

**Ignition Source** (Heat): In a school this is likely to be:

- An open flame in the kitchen
- Faulty electrical equipment
- Heat from heaters
- Smoking materials
- Static electricity
- Lightening
- Chemical reactions



**Fuel Source:** Any combustible material

**Oxygen:**

Extinguishers are designed to take away one of these elements. Without these elements a fire cannot exist.

## Extinguishers:

Main extinguishers within your school will be **water** (Red) and **CO2** (Black). Other extinguishers include: **Dry powder** (blue), **Foam** (cream), **Halon** (green).

## Colour Coding

All extinguishers are now red in colour with 5% represented by the old colour coding system. Ideally each extinguisher should have a notice above the extinguisher with colour coding to indicate the nature of the extinguisher.

## Use of Extinguishers:

- Take up a position where access to the fire is unrestricted but where you can make a quick and safe retreat if needed.
- Crouching will help the operator keep clear of the smoke and heat and get nearer to the fire
- Always ensure that the fire is completely extinguished and liable to re-light or smoulder

**Water ( Red )** – Suitable for most fires except flammable liquids and live electrical:

Direct Jet at base of the flame and keep it moving across the area of the fire. If the fire is moving vertically, attack it at it's lowest point and move upwards.



**Carbon Dioxide ( Black )** – Suitable for fires flammable liquids or electrical apparatus

On liquids in container or spilled liquids:

Direct the jet or discharge horn towards the near edge of the fire and with a sweeping movement drive the flames to the far edge of until the flames are extinguished.

On falling liquids:

Direct the jet or horn to the base of the flames and sweep upwards.

Electrical fires:

Switch off current, and direct jet or horn straight at the fire

NB:

Do not use in confined spaces

Use outside in windy conditions may result in dispersal of jet

Do not use of loose paper.



**Foam** - Suitable for most fires involving flammable liquids

Liquids in containers:

Direct the jet at the inside edge of the container. This will allow the foam to build up.

Spilled liquids: ( or where above is not possible )

Stand well back and direct the jet with sweeping movements, allowing the foam to drop and land on the surface of the liquid ( 7M jet possible)

NB:

Aiming the jet directly into the liquid will just drive the foam beneath the surface and render it ineffective.





**Dry Powder (Blue)** – Suitable for fires involving flammable liquids or electrical apparatus

Method and operating instruction as for Carbon Dioxide

**Halon (Green)** - Suitable for fires involving flammable liquids or electrical apparatus

Method and operating instruction as for Carbon Dioxide

**Fire Blanket** – Suitable for burning liquids and burning cloth

Additional Information:

All extinguishers should be checked annually  
Always report any suspected fault with extinguishers



## Test

- 1: You smell burning from a computer that a child is using. What actions would you take?
- 2: The cook runs out of the kitchen yelling that a pan of cooking oil is on fire
- 3: You notice a petrol fire in the car park, caused by a leaking petrol tank on a car. Assuming there are no vehicles in the car park how would you tackle the fire?
- 4: An electrical appliance in a store cupboard is on fire. How are you going to put the fire out?
- 5: A wastepaper bin is on fire. What extinguisher would you use to extinguish the fire?

**As stated before – and I cannot stress this too strongly – your priority is to get the children out, get yourself out and to raise the alarm on the way out. Leave the fire fighting to the experts and only tackle a fire where there is NO other alternative. (Hopefully you will never find yourself in such a position.)**