

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

A datasheet on FOAM FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Modern synthetic AFFF offers a very effective means of extinguishing fires that involve both normal combustible materials and flammable liquids. AFFF, which stands for Aqueous Film Forming Foam, extinguishes Class A fires by removing the HEAT and cooling the fire and Class B fires, by shutting off the OXYGEN and suffocating the fire.

OPERATION & APPLICATION

1. Remove safety clip or pin
2. Aim hose at base of fire
3. Press handles together
4. Spray the foam over the surface area of the burning materials moving the nozzle from side to side until the fire is extinguished

With flammable liquids, the technique is simply to allow the foam to gently flow over the surface of the liquid moving the nozzle from side to side, until the fire dies down.

With most Class A materials, you will often find that although the flames have been extinguished, the materials will continue to smoulder for quite some time, so it is important to make sure that any 'Hot Spots' are completely extinguished, as the fire may re-ignite.



Foam Fire Extinguisher

CAUTION

Most Foam spray extinguishers have passed an electrical conductivity test which means they may be used **NEAR** to live electrical equipment, but as foam is water based it **MUST NOT** be applied directly onto live electrical equipment, as there is still a risk of electrocution.

CLASSES

The **Foam extinguisher** is suitable for **CLASS A** fires, which includes materials such as wood, paper, furnishings and plastics. It is also suitable for use on **Class B** fires, which are those fires involving flammable liquids.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The 6 and 9 litre foam extinguishers are fairly heavy. If the extinguisher is too heavy to lift and carry, **do not** attempt to use it, as you could injure yourself trying to do so.

NOZZLE

The Foam spray extinguisher, produces a fine spray of foam which allows the user to attack a large area of the fire. Another advantage of the Foam extinguisher is that it not only cools the fire, but it also seals the surface of the burning material, shutting out the oxygen that the fire requires to continue burning.

SIZES

The Foam extinguisher is available in four different sizes, which will contain 9, 6, 3 or 2 litres of foam. The range of these different sizes is about 4 metres. However, the duration of the extinguishers varies considerably.

DURATION

9 litre foam approx 40 seconds
6 litre foam approx 30 seconds
3 litre foam approx 18 seconds
2 litre foam approx 12 seconds

BS5423 - FOAM

Before January 1997, the contents of the fire extinguishers were generally identified by their colour. The FOAM extinguisher was painted **CREAM** and the instruction label stated which types of fire that the extinguisher could and could not be used on.

Although, this colour coding was superseded in January 1997, by BS EN3, the old colour coded extinguishers can still be used until they have been condemned as unserviceable or they reach the end of their normal life. At this time it will be replaced with a BS EN3 extinguisher.