

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

A datasheet on WATER FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Water is the most common extinguisher in the majority of buildings as the main risk from fire is usually presented by normal combustible materials (Class A fires). Materials which fall into this category include things like chairs, desks, papers, furnishings and so on. The most effective way of extinguishing this type of fire is to remove the heat and using **water** is the best way of doing this.

OPERATION & APPLICATION

1. Remove safety clip or pin
2. Aim hose at base of fire
3. Press handles together
4. Apply the jet of water to the fire, working from side to side, until the fire is extinguished.

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.

If you find yourself confronted with a fire that is growing upwards, begin fighting the fire at its base, then moving the jet from side to side, work upwards until the fire is extinguished.



Water Fire Extinguisher

DANGER

There are some fires on which water must never be used because it will either make the fire worse or make it potentially lethal.

Most people are aware that water and electricity do not mix. The likely outcome of applying water to electrical equipment is electrocution!

Adding just a small amount of water to a flammable liquid fire can be terrifying, not only will it intensify the fire, but it is also likely to cause the fire to spread and ignite other materials that it comes in contact with. If the flammable liquid is spilt and water is used, the flammable liquid will float on top of the water, causing the fire to spread.

CLASSES OF FIRE

The **water extinguisher** is **only** suitable for **CLASS A** fires, which includes materials such as wood, paper, furnishings and plastics.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The water extinguisher is fairly heavy, the most common size which contains 9 litres of water, weighs about 15 kilos. 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.

SIZES

The most common size of water extinguisher contains 9 litres of WATER and will normally last for about 40 seconds.

The jet of WATER has a range of about 10 metres.

You may also come across a slightly smaller water extinguisher which contains 6 litres of water, which will last for around 30 seconds.

BS 5423 - WATER

Before January 1997, the contents of the fire extinguishers were generally identified by their colour. The Water extinguisher was painted **RED** 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.