

Appendix 2 – Types of Fire Extinguishers

Before using a fire extinguisher read the instructions ensuring that it is appropriate to the type of fire. The four types of fire extinguishers most likely located in or near Campus Laboratories are:

- Carbon Dioxide Extinguisher;
- Foam Extinguisher;
- Water Extinguisher, and
- Wet-Chemical Extinguisher.

Please refer to the table below extracted from AS2444-2001 and Chubb.

Colour scheme - AS2444 Pre 1999 Post 1999		Class of Fire					NOTES LIMITED indicates that the extinguishant is the agent of choice for the class of fire, but that it will have limited extinguishing capability. Class D fires (involving combustible metals) use only special purpose extinguishers and seek expert advice. COMMENTS Refer to Appendix A of AS 2444
		A Wood, paper and plastics	B Flammable and combustible liquids	C Flammable gases	E Energised electrical equipment	F Cooking oils and fats	
Type of Fire Extinguisher	 Water	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	Dangerous if used on flammable liquid, live electrical equipment and cooking oil/fat fires.
	 Wet Chemical	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	Dangerous if used on electrical fires.
	 Foam	✓	✓	✗	✗	LIMITED ✓	Dangerous if used on electrical fires.
	 Powder AB(E)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	Special powders are available specifically for various types of metal fires (seek expert advice).
	 Powder B(E)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	Special powders are available specifically for various types of metal fires (seek expert advice).
	 Carbon Dioxide	LIMITED ✓	LIMITED ✓	✗	✓	✗	Generally not suitable for outdoor use. Suitable only for small fires.
	 Vaporising Liquid	✓	LIMITED ✓	LIMITED ✓	✓	✗	Check the characteristics of the specific extinguishant.

		'A' TYPE FIRES ONLY Paper, wood and plastics. NOTE: Ensure you maintain a path of egress between you and the nearest exit.
		'F' TYPE FIRES ONLY Cooking Oils and Fats NOTE: Use as a blanket to wrap around a human torch (ensure you replace after every use).

Extract - AS.2444-2001