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EC63-2112 Revised 1963 Know your Fire Extinguisher...

Rollin Schnieder

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Schnieder, Rollin, "EC63-2112 Revised 1963 Know your Fire Extinguisher..." (1963). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 3644.
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KNOW YOUR FIRE EXTINGUISHER ...

Revised
(E.C. 63-2112)

Rollin D. Schnieder
Extension Specialist, Safety

Three things are necessary to start a fire. They are heat, oxygen, and fuel. Take any one of the three away and the fire will not burn. It is with this knowledge that we select fire extinguishing equipment for the various classes of fires.

Fires are divided into 3 general classes--A, B, and C

Class A fires include combustible solids such as buildings, hay, feed, straw, trees, brush, and many items of furniture.

Class B fires include flammable liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, paints, paint thinners, some solvents, and specific agricultural chemicals.

Class C fires include all electrical equipment or any fire involving danger of electrical shock.

It is important that people know the proper extinguisher to buy for the class of fire they might have to fight. Different extinguishers are designed for use on different fires. Their improper application can lead to personal injury or failure to extinguish the fire.

Kinds of Extinguishers

Four extinguishers may be used on Class A fires. They are: 1. Soda Acid, 2. Foam, 3. Pump Tank or loaded stream, and 4. Dry Chemical. Dry chemical works with good success, but may need water as an acid. Homemade devices such as garden hose, pail, broom, wet sacks, may also be used.

Three Class B fire extinguishers are available. They are: 1. Dry Chemical, 2. Carbon Dioxide, and 3. Foam. Baking soda and earth may also be used on these fires.

Two Class C fire extinguishers are available. They are: 1. Dry Chemical, 2. Carbon Dioxide. Baking soda and earth are also good extinguishing agents. It is a good idea to shut off the electric power when fighting a Class C fire. DO NOT USE WATER ON CLASS C FIRES.

Extinguisher Care

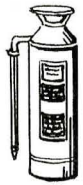
Water extinguishers, including foam, may freeze. Dry powder and carbon dioxide need no winter protection. Extinguishers should be inspected and recharged periodically, at least once yearly.

Location of Extinguishers

1. Entry of house needs water for use in house.
2. Kitchen needs dry chemical or carbon dioxide.
3. Entry to basement needs dry chemical or carbon dioxide.
4. Garage needs dry chemical or carbon dioxide.
5. Barn needs water, dry chemical, carbon dioxide.
6. Hay mow needs water.
7. Equipment should have dry chemical, carbon dioxide, or shovel for throwing dirt or sand.

EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING
E.F. FROLIK, DEAN E.W. JANIKE, DIRECTOR

FIRE EXTINGUISHER TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS

	Water Extinguishers		Water and Chemical Extinguishers		Dry Chemical	Carbon Dioxide
	WATER PUMP	AIR CHARGED LOADED STREAM	SODA ACID	 FOAM	DRY CHEMICAL	CARBON DIOXIDE
Extinguisher Effect	Cooling	Cooling	Cooling	Cooling & Smothering	Smothering	Smothering
Effective with fires of Class A B C	Yes No No	Yes No No	Yes No No	Yes Yes No	* Yes Yes	* Yes Yes
How to Operate	Pump by hand	Aim at fire depress handle	Turn over	Turn over	Squeeze handle on top	Squeeze handle on top or open valve
Length of Discharge	30 to 40 feet	30 to 40 feet	30 to 40 feet	30 to 40 feet	8 to 12 feet	2 to 6 feet
Recharge	After use	After use	Annually or after use	Annually or after use	Annually or after use	Annually or after use
Protection from Freezing	Approved anti-freeze chemicals may be added to water	Approved anti-freeze chemicals may be added to water	Keep in heated cabinet if building is unheated. Never add anti-freeze.	Keep in heated cabinet if building is unheated. Never add anti-freeze.	None needed	None needed

*Effective on small surface fires.