FIRE EXTINGUISHER SELECTION AND USE

Fire extinguishers are an integral element in the emergency management system at the University. While portable fire extinguishers are simple to use, there are some basic points to remember about the selection and operation of fire extinguishers if confronted by a fire.

Selecting a fire extinguisher

The selection of a fire extinguisher is governed according to the class of fire. The table below outlines which fire extinguisher should be used to extinguish the class of fire.

### FIRE EQUIPMENT USAGE CHART

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<td>Powder ABE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powder BE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
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</table>

### NOTES:
- Listed indicates that the extinguisher is not the agent of choice for the class of fire, but that it will have limited extinguishing capability. Class D fires (combustible metals) can only be used if appropriate to the extinguisher and seek expert advice.
- Comments (Refer Appendix A1 AS 2444)

### USING FIRE HOSE REELS

1. Turn on the stop valve
2. Run out the selected length of hose
3. Turn on the water at the nozzle
4. Direct the stream at the base of the fire
5. Ensure you leave a direct exit path between you and the nearest exit door/egress route.

### USING FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

1. Ensure that you use the correct extinguisher
2. Always keep an emergency exit behind you (away from the fire)
3. Stay low to avoid the effects of heat and smoke
4. Direct the extinguisher stream at the base of the flames
5. Move stream in a side to side sweeping motion
6. If the fire gets to the point where you are no longer able to control it, retreat and close the doors.

NB: Fire hose reels should only be used if safe to do so

NB: Fire extinguishers should only be used if safe to do so
Operating a Fire Extinguisher

Fire extinguishers should only be used when it is safe to do so. When using a fire extinguisher there are some basic principles which can be easily remembered from the acronym PASS:

- **P**ull the Pin – Break seal and test extinguisher
- **A**im at the base of the fire – Ensure you have a means of escape
- **S**queeze the top handle or lever – To operate extinguisher and discharge agent
- **S**weep from side to side – Completely extinguish the fire

Before attempting to extinguish a fire always raise the alarm and seek assistance. When attempting to fight the fire ensure you have a safe means of exit – Never let the fire get between you and the exit.