



Fire Extinguishers

Introduction

This Guidance Note is intended to provide information on the types of fire extinguishers relevant to roofing works. All those engaged in roofing work must have the suitable skills, knowledge and training to make them aware of the following:

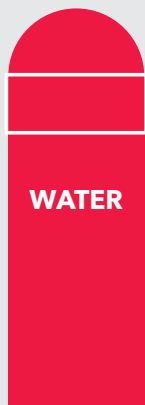
- The fire risk associated with their work or task that they will be undertaking.
- The different types of fire extinguishers available and how to identify them.
- What type of extinguisher to use on what type of fire to ensure that they do not put themselves or others at further risk.
- How to operate and effectively use the different types of fire extinguisher for the different types of fires that may occur.

Such training can often be economically provided by your fire extinguisher supplier, or a fire safety training provider.

Fire Extinguishers

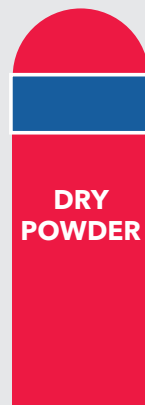
All fire extinguishers that are selected should have an up-to-date service record, a register of which should be kept on site. The appropriate fire extinguisher(s) should be selected for the task(s) that are being undertaken on the roof. This will be dependent on the types of material(s) and risks involved as it may be necessary to provide more than one type of fire extinguisher. Prior to any work commencing, you should confirm the following via a robust risk assessment:

- The type of fire extinguisher(s) required.
- The number of fire extinguishers required.
- Where the fire extinguishers are positioned on site (*either when in storage or adjacent to the works*).



Water

Water fire extinguishers which are identified by the **red band** can be used on fires involving wood, paper, textiles and similar materials. They are not suitable for combustible liquids, oil, petrol or fires involving electricity.



Dry Powder

Dry Powder fire extinguishers which are identified by the **blue band** can be used on fires involving wood, paper, textiles and similar materials. Dry Powder can be used on fires involving electrical equipment however, they do not cool the fire, so it can re-ignite.



Foam

Foam fire extinguishers which are identified by the **cream band** are most suited to extinguishing liquid fires such as petrol or diesel and are more versatile than water jet extinguishers because they can also be used on solids such as wood and paper. The foam extinguishes liquid fires by sealing the surface of the liquid, preventing flammable vapour reaching the air and starving the fire of fuel. Not suitable for fires involving electricity.



CO₂

CO₂ fire extinguishers which are identified by the **black band** can be used on any type of fires, including electrical equipment and is an effective way to put out fires and prevent fire from reoccurring because of the lack of oxygen and the ice-cold temperature of CO₂ when released from the extinguisher.

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