

Fire Extinguishers

Practical skills

Which extinguisher suits which fire — and the two combinations that make things worse.

Fire classes by fuel. Using the wrong extinguisher can spread the fire or electrocute you.

Class	Fuel	Use
A	Wood, paper, cloth	Water, foam, powder
B	Petrol, oil, paint	Foam, powder, CO ₂
C	Gases	Powder only
D	Metals	Specialist powder only
Electrical	Live equipment	CO ₂ or powder — never water
F / K	Cooking oil, fat	Wet chemical only

Never water on electrical or on a chip-pan fire. Water on burning oil erupts instantly into a fireball.