

**UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA - FAIRBANKS**

<b>SUBJECT:</b> Fire Extinguishers	<b>Number: 1223</b>
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> To Provide Guidance and Direction on the use and maintenance of fire Extinguishers	<b>Adoption Date: Dec. 1998</b> <b>Revision Dates:</b>

**I. ROLE OF MANUAL SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS:**

The campus philosophy of prevention, automatic detection, exiting, automatic suppression, and a professional response, to fire emergencies, has diminished the role of manual fire suppression systems for general use such as fire extinguishers at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Automatic detection and suppression systems have an extremely effective record, and by allowing ALL occupants of a building to immediacy exit, they do not place any life in danger to operate. Having fire extinguishers available brings an expectation and in some cases a requirement to adequately train those who may feel the need to use them. This with the documented limited effectiveness of fire extinguishers and the fact use of fire extinguishers place one or more lives in danger, diminishes any advantages fire extinguishers may have had, especially when compared to automatic fire suppression systems. Therefore, whenever campus buildings are fully protected by automatic fire systems, fire extinguishers will be limited to only high hazard areas where properly trained personnel are available to use them. All non-sprinkled building shall have fire extinguishers whenever prudent and required by code.

When manual fire protection devises are remove due to the above policy all remnants (case, holder, and sign) must be removed also. If not practical to do so, a sticker with the following will be placed:

This facility has automatic fire detection, warning, and suppression systems for your safety. Manual systems have been removed.

Extinguisher placement in non-protected buildings:

- One extinguisher (minimum rating of 2A10BC) within 75' travel distance from any point in the building, with additional extinguishers in areas of higher hazard (i.e. kitchens, shops, flammable liquid storage) per UAF Fire Marshal's determination.
- Best locations are near exits or exit pathways.
- Residential apartments with kitchens

## USE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

Fire extinguishers are to be used by trained individuals ONLY. At no time should anyone jeopardize their safety or that of others in attempt to fight a fire. If in doubt, leave the area immediately, closed the door behind you, activate the fire alarm (pull stations are located along exit pathways), and notify the fire department immediately by dialing 911.

Look on the front of a fire extinguisher to determine what sort of fire the extinguisher will put out. Usually, extinguishers are labeled with the letters A, B., C., or D. Each letter signifies a class of fires the extinguisher will suppress.

- A: Ordinary Combustibles - Fires in paper, wood, drapes, and upholstery
- B: Flammable Liquids - Fires in fuel oil, gasoline, paint, grease, solvents.
- C: Electrical Equipment - Fires in wiring, overheated fuse boxes, conductors, and other energized electrical equipment.
- D: Metals - Fires in certain metals, such as magnesium and sodium,

An extinguisher marked "A, B, C" will put out fires involving ordinary combustibles (e.g., paper and wood), flammable liquids, and electrical equipment.

**IMPORTANT:** Do not use an inappropriate extinguisher on a given fire. Such a practice can make the fire worse and/or cause injury to the user. A common error is the use of a water extinguisher (A) on a grease or electrical fire (B or C).

To operate most fire extinguishers:

Pull the pin. Some units require the releasing of a lock latch, pushing a puncture lever, inverting or other motion.

Aim the extinguisher nozzle (horn, or hose) at the base of the fire.

Squeeze or press the handle.

Shoot the retardant at the base of the fire, sweeping from side to side.  
Watch for re-flash.

Although the above instructions apply to most extinguishers, there are exceptions, e.g., foam and water extinguishers require slightly different actions.

**READ THE INSTRUCTIONS** on all extinguishers in or near the work area.

Before attempting to fight an electrical fire, turn off the power to the involved electrical device. Turn off the circuit breaker or switch, or unplug the device.

#### FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING:

Fire extinguisher training is available for those employees and individuals that may be required to use in the course of duty. Department heads and or facility managers are to contact the UAF Fire Department at 474-7012 for scheduling a class and details.

#### REQUESTING A FIRE EXTINGUISHER:

Equipment changes or remodeling may result in a need for additional fire extinguishers.

Request approval from the UAF Fire Marshal; telephone 474-7681. The Fire Marshal will provide recommendations regarding extinguisher type and placement.

After approval, a work order is to be submitted by the department head and or facility manager to the UAF Physical Plant (474-7000) to install the new fire extinguisher and list it on the maintenance schedule.

#### EXTINGUISHER MAINTENANCE

Monthly Check -	To be performed by individuals in the work area to assure extinguisher is in its proper place and seal is secure.
Annual Service -	To be performed by a qualified technician.
Six year maintenance -	To be performed by a qualified technician.
12 year hydro inspection-	To be performed by a qualified technician

If an extinguisher has been discharged, is missing from its original location, or a annual service is required, a work order for replacement is to be submitted to the UAF the Physical Plant for replacement or maintenance; telephone 474-7000.