

Fire Classifications



There are 5 main classifications of fire. Below we will look at the different types.



Class A fires involve free burning solid substances. This is often burning organic matter such as wood or paper. They are best dealt with using water, foam or multipurpose powders extinguishers.



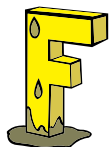
Class B fires are liquid or liquefiable substances solids. They are fuelled by liquids like petrol, paints or fats that are solid at room temperature and melt when heated. Dry powder extinguishers, carbon dioxide, foam (including the AFFF type) are suitable for this class of fire.



Class C fires are gas fires. These should **not** be tackled. However, if you are able to stop without any risk to yourself, like knowing how to turn off the gas, you should do so.



Class D fires involve flammable metals. These should not be tackled. They must be dealt with by specially trained personnel. Metals that are usually at risk are; aluminium, magnesium, sodium, and potassium



Class F fires are fires fuelled by cooking oils and fats. According to statistics, cooking appliance fires make up 25% of all fires in the work place. With a large proportion of those are related to cooking oil. Because this hazard is so great, a whole new classification of fire was introduced.

Class F fires can be fought using a fire blanket or a special Class F fire extinguisher.

BE AWARE: Do not tackle Class F fires without special training.



Electrical fires. When dealing with these types of fire you should avoid using water based extinguishers, which could cause electrocution

Use the below table as a quick reference of which type of extinguishers should be used on different types of fire.

	A	B	C	D	F	Electrical
WATER	✓		DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIGHT FIRE	DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIGHT FIRE		
FOAM	✓	✓	DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIGHT FIRE	DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIGHT FIRE		
DRY POWDER	✓	✓	DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIGHT FIRE	DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIGHT FIRE		✓
CO ₂		✓	DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIGHT FIRE	DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIGHT FIRE		
FIRE BLANKET			DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIGHT FIRE	DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIGHT FIRE	✓	