

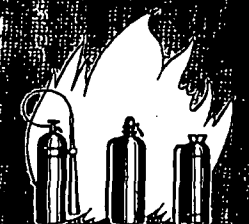
Know How to Use the Right Fire Extinguisher

By STEVE ELONKA, Associate Editor

TYPE OF FIRE



CLASS A: Wood, paper, cloth, rubber, etc. Use pump (air), soda acid or just water.

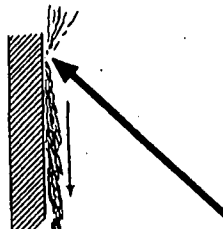


CLASS B: Grease, oil, gasoline, kerosene, etc. Use CO₂, dry chemical or foam (yes).

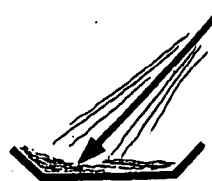


CLASS C: Electrical equipment. Turn off, cut off gas, etc. Use nonconductor or vaporizing liquid.

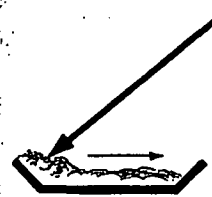
Five Handy Fire Fighters



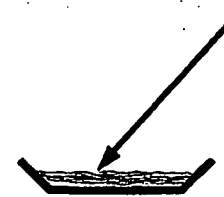
SODA ACID OR WATER. Use on class A fires only. Start at top of wall and work down, wetting surface as you go to knock down flame. Then go back and drench thoroughly to prevent relapse. Range of stream is from 30 to 50 feet.



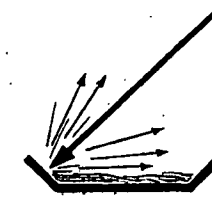
CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂). Is for class B and C fires. Direct the gas across the flaming area and sweep the fire before you. CO₂ is a nonconductor, leaves no residue, and does not affect equipment or even foodstuffs. Range is 3 to 6 feet.



FOAM. Use on class B, also on class A fires. Back the stream of foam off the opposite side of the wall (if possible) to build up a solid blanket of foam without splashing the burning liquid and without spreading it. Range is 30 to 40 feet.



DRY CHEMICAL. For class B and C fires. Direct stream into nearest corner of fire (if possible) and sweep across flame. Chemical releases a smothering gas on fire; fog of dry chemical shields operator from the heat. Range is 8 to 12 feet.

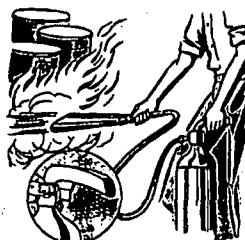


VAPORIZING LIQUID. For class B and C fires. Play stream against side of container or wall to break it into droplets so liquid vaporizes quickly. Remember, it's the vaporized gas and not the liquid that puts out fire so gas must contact fire.

How to Operate



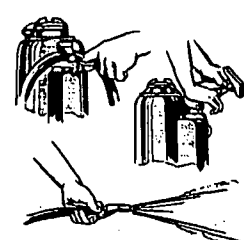
SODA ACID OR WATER. Turn upside down, bump on ground to create pressure. Main extinguishing agent is water, so keep away from the electrical equipment.



CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂). Unhook hose, pull out lock pin, squeeze trigger or turn handwheel. Discharge at fire base. Keep the stream range at about 3 to 6 feet.



FOAM. Turn over, bump on the ground. Aim at base of wood fire, float foam on top. The foam is a flowing blanket of durable bubbles filled with an inert gas.



DRY CHEMICAL. Remove ring pin, free hose, push lever down, squeeze nozzle handle—or, if another make, unhook hose, pull lock pin and squeeze trigger.



VAPORIZING LIQUID. Unlock by turning handle. Pump stream on burning material. Range of stream is 20 to 30 ft. V-L is nonconductor, won't damage equipment.