

43—Fire Protection

Class D fires These units are not classified by a numerical system and are intended for a special hazard protection only

The following recommendations are given in NFPA Standard No 10 as a guide in marking extinguishers, and/or extinguisher locations, to indicate the suitability of the extinguisher for a particular class of fire. Extinguishers suitable for more than one class of fire may be identified by multiple symbols as described previously.

Markings should be applied by decalcomanias, painting, or similar methods having at least equivalent legibility and durability.

Where markings are applied to the extinguisher, they should be located on the front of the shell above or below the extinguisher name plate. Markings should be of a size and form to give easy legibility at a distance of 3 ft.



1 Extinguishers suitable for Class A fires should be identified by a triangle containing the letter "A." If colored, the triangle should be colored green.*



2 Extinguishers suitable for Class B fires should be identified by a square containing the letter "B." If colored, the square should be colored red.*



3 Extinguishers suitable for Class C fires should be identified by a circle containing the letter "C." If colored, the circle should be colored blue.*



4 Extinguishers suitable for fires involving metals should be identified by a five-pointed star containing the letter "D." If colored, the star should be colored yellow.*

Where markings are applied to wall panels, etc., in the vicinity of extinguishers, they should be of a size and form to give easy legibility at a distance of 25 ft.

Extinguishers listed by Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., are rated after physical testing. These ratings, which are indicated by a numeral and a letter, define the extinguishing potential of an extinguisher because they specify the type and size or number that should be installed in a specific area.

The numeral signifies the number of units of extinguishing potential and the letter(s), the class(es) of fire on which the particular extinguisher is most effective for extinguishment. For example, a 4-A 16-B C rating signifies that the extinguisher is rated for 4 units of Class A fire-fighting potential, 16 units of Class B fire-fighting potential, and is safe to use on Class C fires in or near electrical equipment.

Extinguishers labeled with pre-1955 classifications can be reclassified by using conversion tables published in NFPA Standard No 10, *Installation of Portable Fire Extinguishers*.

Location of units. Extinguishers should be located close to the likely hazards, but not so close that they would be damaged or cut off by the fire. They should be located along the normal path of egress from the building, preferably at the exits. Where highly combustible material is stored in small rooms or enclosed spaces, the extinguishers should be located outside the door, rather than inside where they might become inaccessible.

The location of the extinguisher should be made conspicuous (Fig 43-12). For example, if it is hung on a large column or post, a distinguishing red band can be painted around the post. Also, large signs can be posted directing attention to extinguishers. The extinguisher should be kept clean and should not be painted in any way that will camouflage it or obscure labels and markings on it.

If the extinguisher itself is not already marked plainly to indicate the classifications of fire or types of material for which it is in-

* NOTE Recommended colors as described in the Federal Color Standard Number 595 are

Green — No 14260
Red — No 11105
Blue — No 15102
Yellow — No 13655