

Fire Type Information (Appendix 3)

Fires occur as a result of the coming together of three essential elements. They are:

- Heat
- Oxygen
- Combustible materials

Depriving the fire of any of these essential elements will extinguish it. Fires are separated into four basic classes in accordance with the combustible elements involved. These classes of fires should be common knowledge but are outlined below.

Class	Common Combustible Material	Type Extinguisher	Effects of Extinguisher
A	Wood, Paper, Cloth, etc.	Water Dry Chemical	Eliminates heat Deprives fire of oxygen
B	Petroleum Products/ Flammable Liquids	Dry Chemical Smothering Material	Deprives fire of oxygen
C	Electrical Fires ¹	CO ² (Carbon Dioxide)	Eliminates heat/reduces oxygen
D	Combustible Metals ²	Dry Chemicals	Deprives fire of oxygen

¹ Note: the use of water increases shock hazard

² Note: The use of water may cause hazardous fumes