

KEEP THIS HANDY
AND
GET TO KNOW IT

FIRE

EXTINGUISHING FIRES IN THE HOME

The best form of protection against fire is PREVENTION. If, in spite of the precautions taken, a fire does occur it is essential for everyone concerned to know WHAT SHOULD BE DONE.

- Get everyone out of the room where the fire is and close the door in order to confine the spread of fire and smoke.
- See everyone gets out of the house.
- Call the Fire Brigade.

Steps may then be taken to extinguish the fire if this is possible WITHOUT ENDANGERING LIFE.

The most suitable extinguishing agent in the home is WATER. The domestic water supply or a water butt will provide the best source for attacking a fire. EXTINGUISHERS can be used effectively on small fires and those containing water are the gas pressure and soda/acid types. GET TO KNOW WHICH TYPE YOU HAVE.

Some fires require special treatment to prevent the person attacking the fire from exposing himself to danger and to avoid the risk of the person spreading the fire. These are —

FIRES IN ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

e.g. Mains Radios. Refrigerators. Irons and all wiring.

The most important thing is to remove the plug, or to switch off the current at the mains. If this action does not extinguish the fire, water is the most effective means of doing so.

WATER SHOULD NOT BE USED ON LIVE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT.

FIRES IN FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

PORTABLE OIL HEATERS

Do not use water, as this may prove dangerous and spread the fire very rapidly if the heater were to be pushed over. Instead, try to stifle the fire with a wet blanket or sand. A foam or dry powder extinguisher may be used, if available. Concentrate on cooling the heater itself. If you have to go out of the room at any stage, shut the door behind you. Make sure you do this particularly if the fire gets out of hand.

OTHER KINDS OF FLAMMABLE LIQUID FIRES, e.g. cooking fats and oils

Water should not be used directly on burning fats, oils or other liquids. A cooking fat fire can be extinguished by turning off the heat and covering the pan with a lid or damp cloth. If the liquid has spilled, the same principle of smothering with a damp cloth should prove effective.

NEVER CARRY A PAN OF BURNING FAT

Water should always be used on the surroundings if the fire spreads.

To deal with fires in electrical equipment or flammable liquids a dry powder or carbon dioxide extinguisher should be used.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Extinguishers should be large enough to have effect and yet easy enough to handle, particularly by women and elderly persons.

The usual MINIMUM sizes are —

Water (gas pressure or soda/acid)	1 gallon.
Dry powder	2 pounds.
Carbon dioxide	2 and a half pounds.

There are other cheaper and lighter pressurised extinguishers on the market. They are generally inferior to conventional ones and must be replaced as soon as they show any signs of deterioration.

Extinguishers should receive regular maintenance without which they may be useless when required. The operating instructions printed on extinguishers should be carefully studied.

CLOTHING FIRES

If a person's clothing catches fire he should immediately lie down and roll across the floor to prevent the fire spreading rapidly over his clothing and to avoid burning his face or inhaling the fumes. If possible, roll yourself in a rug, keeping your head outside. On no account remain standing or sitting. If other people are present they should immediately grab a coat or blanket and wrap it round the person.