

Fire

Reason	Fire kills on average 260 people in Britain every year and injures thousands more. Knowing how to prevent a fire can save lives.
Outline	This talk covers fire prevention, precautions, types of extinguisher and actions to take in the event of a fire.

Types of portable fire extinguisher



Water
(red label)



Foam
(cream label)



Wet chemical
(yellow label)



Carbon dioxide
(black label)



Dry powder
(blue label)



Example of a good fire point on site



A build up of combustible material posing a fire risk



The fire triangle



Know what fire extinguisher you will need in the event of an emergency. You may not have time to read the label if fire breaks out.

Fire

Reason	Fire kills on average 260 people in Britain every year and injures thousands more. Knowing how to prevent a fire can save lives.
Outline	This talk covers fire prevention, precautions, types of extinguisher and actions to take in the event of a fire.

Fire prevention

1. Don't hang clothing over or near heating equipment.
2. Don't let paper, oily rags or other rubbish accumulate, and only smoke in designated smoking areas.
3. Use purpose-made containers (not open tins or buckets) when handling or storing flammable liquids.
4. Don't overload electrical sockets – one socket, one plug.
5. Handle flammable liquids at a safe distance from possible sources of ignition.
6. Ensure there are no adjacent flammable materials, or shield them with fire-resistant materials, before using blowlamps and cutting equipment.
7. Bitumen boilers, soldering irons and gas rings must be on non-combustible stands.
8. When electrical equipment is not in use, switch it off: beware of heat produced by halogen lamps.

Fire precautions

1. Make sure you know what to do if there is a fire.
2. Make sure you know your escape route and assembly point.
3. Keep escape routes clear and unobstructed.
4. Don't obstruct access to fire-fighting equipment.
5. Only attempt to fight a small (wastepaper bin-sized) fire and then only if you have been trained to select and use a fire extinguisher.

Fire extinguishers

1. All extinguishers should now be coloured red with a contrasting colour panel to indicate the contents.
 - **Water** (red) for use on paper, wood, textile and solid material fires.
 - **Carbon dioxide** (black) for use on wood, paper, textiles, liquid and electrical fires.
 - **Foam** (cream) for use on liquid fires.
 - **Powder** (blue) for use on liquid and electrical fires and **specialist dry powders** for use on metal fires.
 - **Wet chemical** (yellow) for use on wood, paper, textile, cooking oil and solid material fires.

In the event of a fire

1. Raise the alarm, call the emergency services, go to the assembly point and tell your supervisor.
2. Evacuate the building or area you are working in.
3. If you have been trained and, if it is necessary, fight a small fire with extinguishers provided. Don't put yourself at risk. Always ensure you have an escape route.



What should flammable liquids be stored in?

What checks should you carry out before and after using cutting and welding equipment?

What are the precautions concerning extinguishers and fire exits?

What type of fire can water be used on?

What actions should you take in the event of a fire?

What extinguisher should be used on a liquid fire?

What are five ways of preventing fires on site?



Now inform your workers of actions to be taken in the event of an emergency on site, and relevant parts of the fire safety plan.