



## Fire Extinguisher Reference Guide

The safety of yourself and others is always the first priority. In the event of a fire, your focus should be on evacuating to a safe place and activating the closest fire alarm pull station on the way out. If the fire is still in the early ignition stage (typically no larger than a small waste basket) and you have completed the CMU Fire Extinguisher Training, you may decide to attempt to extinguish the fire before evacuating.

The following guide can be used as a review of the 5 classes of fire, the available types of fire extinguishers and the how to effectively operate a fire extinguisher.

### Classification of Fires



#### **Class A Fires**

Common combustibles such as wood, paper and fabric.



#### **Class B Fires**

Flammable liquids and gases such as gasoline, oils, alcohol and propane.



#### **Class C Fires**

Energized electrical equipment such as appliances, batteries, electrical panels and transformers.



#### **Class D Fires**

Combustible metals such as lithium, magnesium, sodium and potassium.

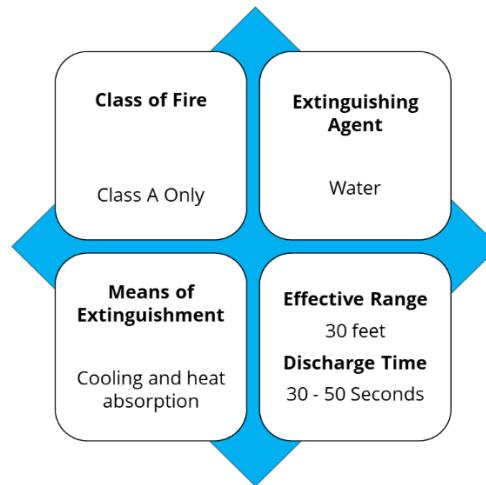


#### **Class K Fires**

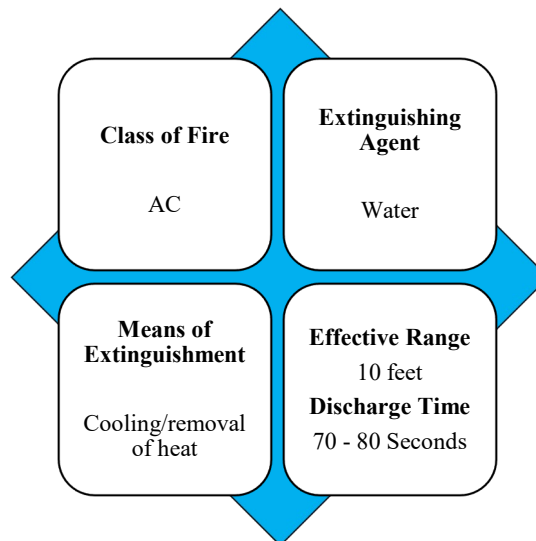
Cooking media such as oils, fats and grease.

# Types of Fire Extinguishers

## Air Pressurized Water

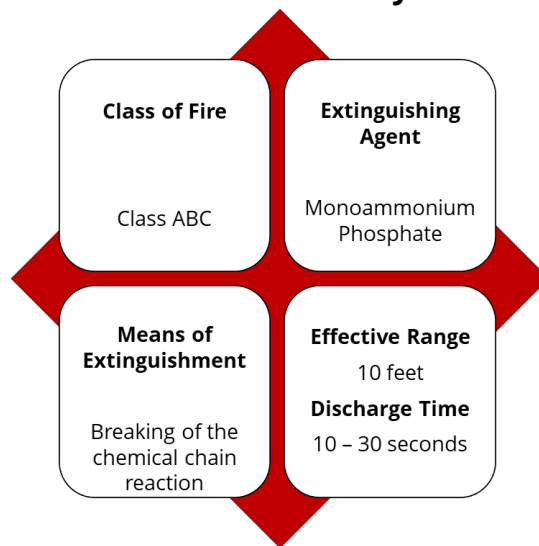


## Air Pressurized Water-Mist

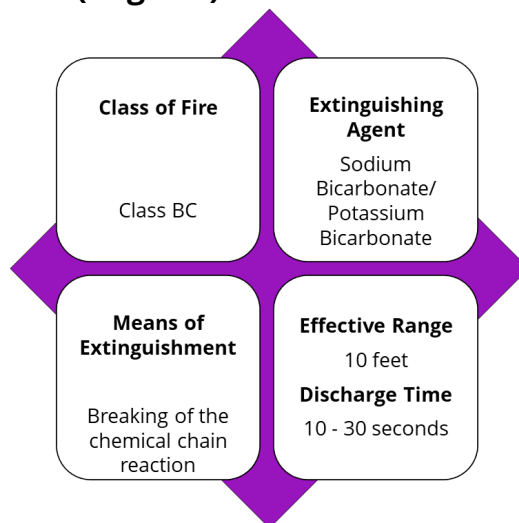


**Special Note:** Water mist fire extinguishers have been added to areas having laser cutters. This is because water is better suited to extinguish deeper seated fires that can be expected in the burning material that is being cut. The water mist is safe to use on electrical equipment, and will not damage sensitive electronic components on the laser cutters.

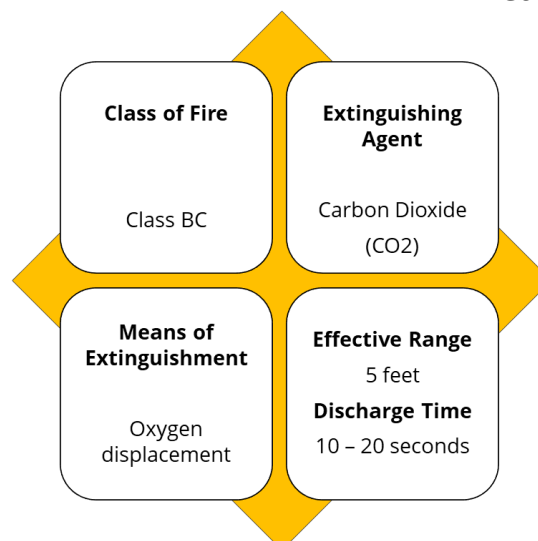
## Dry Chemical (Multipurpose)



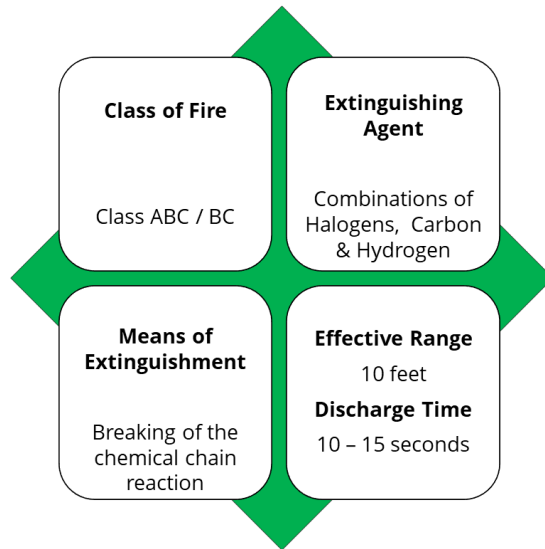
## Dry Chemical (Regular)



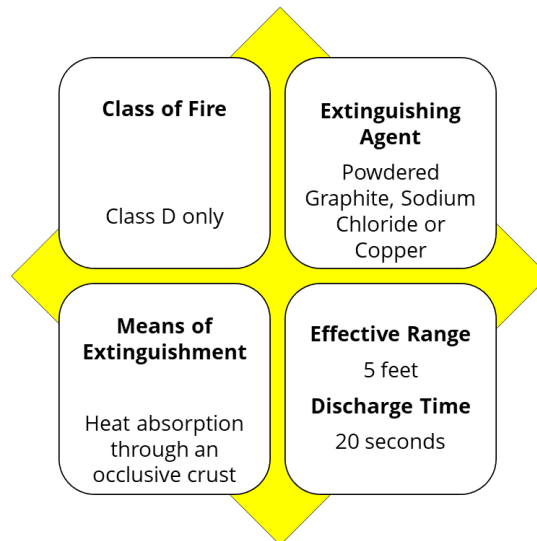
## Carbon Dioxide (CO2)



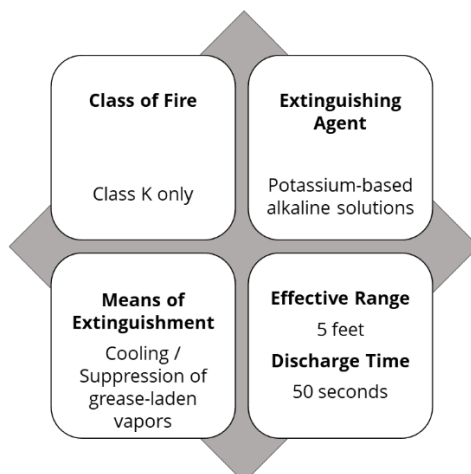
## Halogenated Agent (Clean Agent)



## Dry Powder



## Wet Chemical



## Best Practices

- Always activate the closest manual fire alarm pull station before attempting to extinguish a fire. This will alert the fire department to respond to your location and allow the occupants of the building to begin the evacuation process. It is also best practice to have someone place a call directly to 911 to ensure the fire department is on the way.
- When choosing a fire extinguisher, select one that is classified for use on the type of fire that is involved. For example, you wouldn't want to select a water fire extinguisher (Class A fires only) for use on an electrical fire (Class C fires).
- Once you have selected the appropriate fire extinguisher, approach the fire from uphill and upwind, as applicable.
- As you approach the fire, utilize the P.A.S.S. method of operation, beginning about 10 feet away.

**P= PULL THE PIN**

**A= AIM THE NOZZLE AT THE BASE OF THE FIRE**

**S= SQUEEZE THE DISCHARGE LEVER**

**S= SWEEP SIDE TO SIDE**

- Pay attention to your surroundings at all times and never let the fire get between you and an exit.

**Safety concern, training request or other inquiry?**

**Reach out to the Environmental Health and Safety Department today!**

**safety@andrew.cmu.edu**

**412-268-8182**