

2. Fire Extinguishers

2.1. Intention

- 2.1.1.** Portable Fire Extinguishers are the best available first response to tackle the fire at its incipient stage. The intention of this chapter is to provide a guideline about the types of extinguishers applicable to various natures of fires.
- 2.1.2.** However, usage of fire extinguishers shall be limited to informed and trained personnel. Any fire can grow into catastrophe within minutes. It is not the intention of Civil Defence nor recommendation for people to stay within fire vicinity to fight fires with portable extinguishers, unless the fire is manageable scale and person using the extinguisher is trained.

2.2. Basic Awareness

- 2.2.1.** The following are the basic steps necessary to put a fire extinguisher into operation:
- Recognition of equipment as a fire extinguisher
 - Selection and suitability of a fire extinguisher
 - Transport of a fire extinguisher to the fire
 - Actuation of the fire extinguisher
 - Application of the extinguishing agent to the fire
- 2.2.2.** When a fire extinguisher is being selected, the following physical conditions should be considered.
- 2.2.2.1. Gross Weight.** In the selection of a fire extinguisher, the physical ability of the user should be contemplated. When the hazard exceeds the capability of a hand portable fire extinguisher, wheeled fire extinguishers or fixed systems should be considered.

Did You Know?

The modern fire extinguisher was invented by British Captain George William Manby in 1818.

It consisted of a copper vessel of 3 gallons (13.6 liters) of pearl ash (potassium carbonate) solution contained within compressed air.

- 2.2.2.2. Corrosion.** In some fire extinguisher installations, there exists a possibility of exposing the fire extinguisher to a corrosive atmosphere. Where this is the case, consideration should be given to providing the fire extinguishers so exposed with proper protection or providing fire extinguishers that have been found suitable for use in these conditions.
- 2.2.2.3. Agent Reaction.** The possibility of adverse reactions, contamination, or other effects of an extinguishing agent on either manufacturing processes or on equipment or both, should be considered in the selection of a fire extinguisher.