

## Additional Services from North West Fire Protection:

**Site surveys:** If you have a new or re-developed site then why not take advantage of our site-survey service which will detail the correct portable fire fighting equipment required for your site including extinguishers and signage to the relevant British Standards. Our Engineers can provide you with a quotation on site and often undertake the work on the same day or we can provide a written quotation. Please note that a small charge applies for this service.

**Fire Risk Assessment:** With the implementation of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order in October 2006, all non-domestic premises in England and Wales must have a fire risk assessment carried out by a competent, trained person and significant findings of the FRA must be recorded if 5 or more persons are employed. Fire certificates for premises are no longer valid. Our Fire Risk Assessment service will assess risks from fires including detailed action plans on how risks can be reduced and removed from your workplace.

**Fire safety training:** We offer a number of training courses including Basic Fire Safety Awareness which is recommended for all staff in the workplace and provides information on the cause and theory of fire as well as identifying fire prevention and precautions in the workplace as well as means of escape, fire action and fire fighting. Our Fire Marshal training course is aimed at person delegated as Fire Marshals within the workplace who are required to act in a position of responsibility during a fire emergency. Key learning objectives include liaison with the fire service, checking of fire extinguishers and fire exits, noting fire hazards, training of new staff, and evacuation of persons with disabilities. In addition to the above training courses, we are also able to provide bespoke training services tailored to the needs of your business. Please ask for further details.

Through our membership of the IFEDA network we also work with a number of partner organisations and we are able to supply additional services including: dry and wet riser testing, hydrant testing and fire alarm installation and maintenance.

## Checking your fire extinguishers

Under the Fire Safety (Regulatory Reform) Order 2005, responsible persons have a duty to ensure that portable fire fighting equipment is maintained by a trained, competent person and that the annual testing and inspection of fire fighting equipment is undertaken on your behalf by a qualified service engineer.

However, it is important that you arrange for fire extinguishers to be checked by a responsible person in your workplace (e.g. a fire marshal) on a regular basis (i.e. weekly/monthly) to ensure that they are working.

When checking fire extinguishers the following items should be considered:

Are the extinguishers located in the designated place (i.e. wall mounted/on a fire stand) and are not missing or have been moved?

Are the safety pins or tamper seals disturbed, missing or broken?



Are fire extinguisher signs located above the fire extinguishers?

Are there any visual defects (i.e. dents, leaks or corrosion)?

Are the extinguishers unobstructed and visible with the operating instructions visible, clean and legible and facing outwards?

Are the indicator pressure gauges in the red segment?

If any of the above items are missing/damaged or give cause for concern please arrange for a service engineer to visit your premises NOW!

When checking fire extinguishers, please ensure that you maintain a written and signed record and that any defects identified are reported to the responsible person and are rectified as soon as possible.



## Customer Guidance Booklet



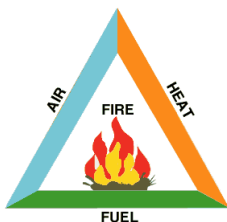
North West Fire Protection,  
Units 3-4 Mersey Road Ind Est.,  
Mersey Road North,  
Failsworth,  
Manchester,  
M35 9LU.  
Tel: 01254 278 555  
Wwww.northwestfireprotection.co.uk



**TOTAL**  
Sicherheit und Feuerschutz

Thank you for choosing North West Fire Protection for your portable fire fighting equipment needs. We hope that you find the information on the enclosed leaflet useful and it will help to safeguard your property and people working within your company.

### The theory of fire:



Fire is a chemical reaction between heat, oxygen/air and fuel and all three elements must be present for a fire to start. If any one of these elements is removed the fire will be extinguished. Oxygen makes up 21% of the air that we breathe and the

more oxygen a fire gets, the more strongly it will burn. Fuels are anything that burn such as wood, waste papers, flammable gases, solvents etc. Sources of heat can come from smoking, electrical heaters and electrical equipment.

### Choosing the right fire extinguisher for the job:

#### Water (Class A fires):

These are the best fire extinguishers for general flammable solids such as paper, wood and fabrics and removing heat from the triangle of fire. Water is not suitable to use on flammable liquids.

#### AFFF/Foam (Class A and B fires):

These are very useful multi-purpose fire extinguishers for Class A flammable solids as well as Class B flammable liquids. The extinguishers form a layer over the top of the burning substance and remove oxygen from the fire.

#### Dry Powder (Class A, B and C Fires):

These extinguishers are useful for all common types of fires including electrical and flammable liquids.

#### Carbon Dioxide (Class B and electrical fires):

This is a good extinguisher to use on electrical fires and flammable liquids and does not leave a residue product. It works by removing oxygen from the fire.

#### Wet chemical (Class F fires):

This is a special type of extinguisher suitable for fires involving deep fat fryers.

### Fire extinguisher servicing:

In line with BS 5306-3: 2003, it is recommended that fire extinguishers are serviced at least annually by a trained, competent person. A competent person is a service engineer who has received professional training and certification in order to carry our servicing to British Standards.

The nature of servicing varies according to the type and model of fire extinguisher, but servicing will usually include checking all parts, gauges, tubes, safety devices and operating mechanisms to ensure that the extinguisher is safe and in good working order at the time of service.

There are three main types of fire extinguisher service:

Basic: this is the annual service as described above

Extended: this includes a controlled discharge test

Overhaul: this includes a hydrant test for CO2

Types	Basic	Extended	Overhaul
Water/Foam	Annual	5 yearly	-
Powder	Annual	5 yearly	-
Carbon Dioxide	Annual	5 yearly	10 yearly
Wet chemical	Annual	5 yearly	-

If you have fire blankets, these will also be inspected to ensure they are in working order. Hose reels can also be inspected in line with BS 5306: Part 1.

### Documentation:

Once we have undertaken the servicing of your fire extinguishers, a certificate of inspection will be issued. This includes the number and types of fire extinguishers that have been serviced, all spare parts used and any new equipment supplied. This will be signed by the Service Engineer and by a nominated representative of your company signifying that you are happy with the work that has been carried out. A copy will be left on site and a further supplied with the invoice. A display certificate can also be issued. If there are any recommendations that have not been carried out at the time of service, a recommendation report and quotation will be supplied on site or with your invoice.

### Frequently asked questions:

#### What classes of fire are there?

There are five main classes of fire and the different classes indicate the type of fire that the extinguishers can be used on.

Class A: for flammable solid items such as wood & paper.

Class B: for liquids such as petrol, solvents and oil.

Class C: for flammable gases such as propane.

Class D: for metal fires.

Class F: for fat fires and is known as wet chemical.

There is no official 'E' class extinguisher but the classification is often used for electrical fires.

#### Why are all fire extinguishers red?

A 1985 EU Directive means that all fire extinguishers in the UK are red. A small coloured band indicates the type of extinguisher as follows:

Foam: **Cream**

Carbon Dioxide (CO2): **Black**

Water: **Red**

Wet chemical (f-class): **Yellow**

Dry Powder: **Blue**

#### Do we have to replace old style coloured fire extinguishers?

No, old-style coloured extinguishers still meet current requirements and will be replaced when the extinguisher comes to end of its life.

#### How do fire extinguishers work?

Stored pressure extinguishers are fully pressurised cylinders that contain the fire extinguishing agent and propellant. Cartridge operated extinguishers are not pressurised but contain a small CO2 cartridge that discharges into the unit when the extinguisher is engaged.

#### How many fire extinguishers do I need?

The type and number of fire extinguishers required depends upon the risks and size of your premises as well as the number of persons employed. As a common rule, no person should be more than 30 metres from a fire extinguisher and one foam or water extinguisher should be provided per 200m<sup>2</sup>. Additional fire extinguishers will be required for special risks. New equipment will be located in line with BS 5306:Part 8 (2000)

#### Why choose North West Fire Protection?

All of our engineers are trained and certified to carry out fire extinguisher servicing to BS 5306:Part 3 (2003). We are members of the professional association IFEDA (Independent Fire Engineers and Distributors Association) and use only high quality products and materials complying with all current legislation.