

PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE

TYPES OF FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

These are divided into the following main groups:

- (1) *Water Type Extinguishers* for fighting fires involving ordinary combustibles such as wood, paper, etc.

Pump Tank Extinguishers of two Imperial gallons capacity are the type most frequently available for use in offices. Their method of operation is self-evident. They can be easily tested and maintained. The water content can also be treated with calcium chloride so that the extinguisher can be used in locations subject to freezing temperatures.

Soda Acid Extinguishers and Foam Extinguishers are also suitable for fighting this class of fire. Their methods of operation and maintenance vary considerably but instructions for their use are always contained on the name plate of the extinguisher itself. These should be read NOW and complied with.

- (2) *Fire Hose* equipped with nozzle is supplied in many buildings. It is suitable for fighting fires involving ordinary combustibles but some skill is required for its use.
- (3) *Smothering Type Extinguishers* for fighting fires involving flammable liquids and electrical fires.

These are of the *Dry Chemical, Vapourizing Liquid* (carbon tetrachloride) or *Carbon Dioxide* types.

Their methods of operation and maintenance again vary considerably with the type and manufacturer and the instructions contained on the name plate of the extinguisher should be read and complied with.

FIRE FIGHTING PROCEDURE

In the event of fire first telephone the fire department. Then try to bring the fire under control with the equipment available. Always keep fire fighting equipment in the same place making certain that the units can be easily reached and that their location is made known to all persons.

In using a hose or any type of water stream always aim at the object burning and not at the smoke or flame. If the fire is spread out over the floor start at the side nearest you and work forward. If the fire is travelling up the walls put out the fire at the bottom first.

When fighting a fire caused by electric short circuits, turn off the power first. This prevents the fire from being re-ignited and also avoids the possibility of receiving a severe shock.

PERSONNEL PRECAUTIONS IN THE EVENT OF FIRE

- (a) Telephone the fire department.
- (b) Walk, don't run, to the nearest exit or assembly point. If time permits, place important papers or files in fireproof safe or cabinet or otherwise remove out of hazard.
- (c) Before opening a door be careful to close windows to reduce the effects of draft. Open doors carefully and slowly in view of the possibility of fire and heat on the other side. Test the heat of the near side of the door before opening.
- (d) In conditions of extreme heat and smoke, stay close to the floor where the air is fresher. A damp cloth or handkerchief over the nose and mouth will provide some protection against effects of smoke.
- (e) Never jump if it can be avoided. Where fires have cut off the exit through hallway and stairs, close the door and then open the window and attempt to attract attention and then wait for firemen to take you down by ladder.