

Table 1A. Characteristics of Approved Portable Fire Extinguishers and Recommended Application (English Units)

		Antifreeze	Carbon Dioxide	Dry Chemical	
Suitability	Class A fires: Wood, textile, paper or rubbish	Yes	No, but will control small fires	Sodium bicarbonate base Potassium bicarbonate base Potassium chloride base	No, but will control textile surface fires
	Class B fires: Oil, gasoline, grease, or paint	No	Yes	Ammonium phosphate base	Yes
	Class C fires: Electrical equipment	No	Yes		Yes
	Class D fires: Flammable metals	No	No	Yes, special "dry powder" available. See text for other details.	
Nominal capacities and weights fully charged	2½ gal 40 lb		5 lb 16 lb 10 lb 32 lb 15 lb 41 lb 20 lb 53 lb 50 lb 220 lb 100 lb 450 lb 750 lb 2750 lb	2½ lb 5 lb 4-5 lb 10 lb 10 lb 22 lb 15 lb 40 lb 20 lb 40 lb 30 lb 55 lb 75 lb 260 lb 150 lb 530 lb 300 lb 1000 lb	
Normal fire area (sq ft) of gasoline in open tank to be extinguished by nonexpert operator	Not recommended for flammable-liquid fires		4-6 lb 2 ft ² 10-12 lb 3 ft ² 15-25 lb 5 ft ² 2-4 ft 50 lb 8 ft ² 75 lb 10 ft ² 100 lb 12 ft ² 750 lb 50 ft ² 20 ft	2½ lb 2 ft ² 8 ft 4-5 lb 3 ft ² 8 ft 7½ lb 5 ft ² 8 ft 10 lb 7 ft ² 15 lb 9 ft ² 20 lb 12 ft ² 8-20 ft 25 lb 14 ft ² 30 lb 17 ft ² 75 lb 25 ft ² 25 ft 150 lb 33 ft ² 10-35 ft 300-500 lb 67 ft ² 15-45 ft	
Maximum effective range	Range: 30-40 ft				
Effective discharge time	2½ gal 58 sec		5 lb 22 sec 10 lb 25 sec 20 lb 30 sec 50 lb 57 sec 100 lb 60 sec 750 lb 150 sec	2½ lb 4 lb 10 lb 10-16 sec 15 lb 20 lb 30 lb 75 lb 35 sec 150 lb 45-63 sec 300 lb 105 sec	
Means of expelling charge	Air pressure		Under 850 psi pressure at normal temperature (70°F)	Carbon dioxide cartridge or nitrogen cylinder; nitrogen or air pressure	
Composition of extinguisher charge	Solutions of calcium chloride or special salts		Carbon dioxide	Specially treated sodium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate, potassium chloride, or ammonium phosphate	
Subject to freezing	No		No	No	
Yearly inspection	Check pressure gauge		Weigh extinguisher semiannually	Weigh carbon dioxide cartridge or check nitrogen or air pressure	
Operation	Press level		Turn handwheel, pull trigger, or squeeze handle	No uniform method	
Approximate spacing (floor area) travel distance (maximum) to extinguisher	3000 ft ² (2½ gal) 75 ft		At special hazards	At special hazards 75 ft for multipurpose type on ordinary combustibles	

Portable Extinguishers

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<i>Air Foam (AFFF)</i>	<i>Pump Tank</i>	<i>Stored-Pressure Water-Filled</i>	<i>Halon</i>
Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited. Larger units of 9 lb Halon 1211 capacity or greater have Class A rating.
Yes	No	No	Yes
No	No	No	Yes
No	No	No	No
2½ gal 28 lb 33 gal 550 lb	2½ gal 40 lb 3 gal 30 lb* 5 gal 65 lb *plastic tank	2½ gal 35 lb	2½ lb 5 lb 3-3½ lb 6-6½ lb 5 lb 10 lb 6½-7 lb 15 lb 9 lb 12*, 17.5 lb 13-14 lb 19*, 21-22 lb 16-17 lb 27*, 32-33 lb 20 lb 30* lb 22 lb 40 lb 150 lb 375 lb *aluminum shell
2½ gal 5 ft ² 30 ft 33 gal 25 ft ² 20-30 ft	Not recommended for flammable-liquid fires Range: 30-40 ft	Not recommended for flammable-liquid fires Range: 30-40 ft	2-3½ lb 2 ft ² 10 ft 5-9 lb 3 ft ² 10-18 ft 13-17 lb 5 ft ² 12-18 ft 20-22 lb 8 ft ² 20 ft 150 lb 33⅓ ft ² 15 ft
2½ gal 60 sec 33 gal 60 sec	2½ gal 60 sec 3 gal 65 sec 5 gal 115 sec	2½ gal 50 sec	2½ lb 3-3½ lb 5 lb 6½-7 lb 9 lb 10-20 sec 13-14 lb 16-17 lb 20 lb 22 lb 150 lb 40 sec
Air pressure or nitrogen cylinder (wheeled unit)	Manually operated pump	Air pressure	Nitrogen
Water and fluorochemicals	Water or calcium chloride solution	Water	Normally bromochlorodifluoromethane (Halon 1211)
Yes	Yes, unless antifreeze charge is used	Yes	No
Check pressure gauge	Discharge	Check pressure gauge	Weigh extinguisher semi-annually and check pressure gauge
Press lever	Pump	Press lever	Press lever
At special hazards	3000 sq ft (2½ gal) 75 ft	3000 sq ft 75 ft	At special hazards