FIRE FIGHTING PROCEDURES IN GODOWNS / WAREHOUSES



What is Fire ?

- Fire is any combustion intense enough to emit heat and light.
- Fire may broke out any moment if adequate preventive arrangements are not made and may cause immense loss to the stocks.
- The majority of the commodities handled and stored in the godowns and warehouses such as food grains, fertilizers, oilseeds, fibres etc. all catch fire immediately.
- If the commodities are of explosive nature such as petrol, diesel and LPG then risks due to the fire and the losses are quantitative more.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards has classified Fires according to the nature of materials on Fire (IS: 2190-1971).

FIRE TRIANGLE

In order to have Fire, the Fuel, Oxygen and the Heat / Ignition Temperature must be present.



If any of the factors is omitted there will be No fire

Steps to prevent Fire

- Prepare layout and the construction of building to minimize the fire risks.
- Create enough fire consciousness and awareness among staff.
- Prohibit smoking, lightening of match sticks and use of naked light in the godown.
- Never keep waste papers, torn pieces of gunny bags, old mats, unserviceable polythene liners in the godowns.
- Avoid dumping of fire hazards materials in and around the godowns.
- Provide perfect and safe electric wiring and circuit system in the godown.
- Check the godown before locking to ensure that no cigarette ends etc, are lying in the godown.
- Store extra hazardous and hazardous goods separately.
- Equip godown with appropriate and duly charged Fire Extinguishers.
- Keep water and sand buckets ready in each godown.
- Display the telephone number and address of Fire Service Station at the godown.

Prevention is Better than Cure.

Fundamental Principles Of Fire Extinguistion.

(A) STARVATION:

This means reduction or removal of unburnt fuel from fire . The separation of fuel will limit the amount of fuel which can contribute to the growth of fire. It is separation of the fire from the fuel.

(B) COOLING:

This means the cooling of fuel below the ignition temperature. Water is the most effective agent for cooling.

(C) SMOTHERING:

This means cutting of the supply of air or oxygen from the fuel. Fire can not continue if the supply of air is cut off.

Types Of Fire Extinguishers

Class Of Fire	Descrption	Extinguisher Type
А.	Fires involving ordinary combustible materials like food grains, wood, paper textiles etc. where the cooling effect of water is essential for the extinguistion of Fire.	Water Soda Acid Type, Gas Cartridge Type
В.	Fires in flammable liquids like Oils, Solvents, Petroleum products, Varnish, Paints etc. where a blanketing effect is essential.	Foam, Carbon dioxide. Dry powder
C.	Fires involving gaseous substances under pressure where it is necessary to dilute the burning gas at a very fast rate with an inert gas or powder.	Carbon dioxide, Dry Powder.
D.	Fires involving metals like Magnesium, Aluminum, Zinc, Potassium etc, where the burning metal is reactive to water and which require special extinguishing media or technique.	Special Dry Powders
E.	Fires involving electrical equipment's where the electrical non- conductivity of the extinguishing media is of first importance.	Carbon dioxide, Dry powder

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS At A GLANCE

1. WATER EXPELLING FIRE EXTINGUISHERS : SODA ACID TYPE

- Soda acid type is the commonly used water expelling Fire Extinguisher.
- Water acts as an extinguishing agent which is released in the form of a jet by means of pressure from the extinguisher.
- It has a bottle containing Sulphuric Acid lodged in cage just below the mouth inside the cylinder and the container or body of the extinguisher contains Sodium bicarbonate solution.
- In order to operate the extinguisher its guard cap is removed and the plunger is struk against a hard surface like floor. As a result, the acid bottle is broken and Sulphuric acid reacts with Sodium bicarbonate solution releasing Carbon dioxide.
- The Carbon dioxide generated creates pressure which forces water out of the extinguisher. The jet of water from the nozzle in directed on the base of fire to extinguish it.
- The Carbon dioxide released acts only as a propellant while water extinguishes the fire by cooling effect.
- The water expelling extinguishers are used mainly in class 'A' Fires. These should not be used for class 'E' Fires involving electrical equipment's till the equipment is de-energised.

GAS CARTRIDGE TYPE

- The Gas Cartridge type Extinguisher consists of a Cylindrical body, an Outlet connection with a Sealing device (disc).
- In Gas Cartridge operated units, the extinguishing media is stored in the non pressurized cylinder while the propellant (typically Carbon dioxide gas or Nitrogen) is stored in a separate cartridge located inside the cylinder body.
- A gas cartridge needs to be activated to pressurize the Fire Extinguisher.
- It can be operated by using the PASS method.





2. DRY POWDER TYPE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- The gas cartridge type dry powder extinguisher contains chemical powder in the main shell and Carbon dioxide gas under high pressure in sealed cartridge.
- When operated, the cartridge is broken allowing the Carbon dioxide gas to escape to the main shell and push out the powder in the form of fog.
- In order to operate the extinguisher, the safety clip is removed and the knob on the cap of extinguisher is struck to actuate the piercing mechanism which in turn breaks the sealing disc of the cartridge.
- The stream of the powder should be directed at the base of the flame.
- This type of extinguishers are mainly recommended for gas fires, petroleum fires and textile fires etc.
- Special dry powders containing mixture of Sodium, Potassium and Barium are useful in extinguishing fires in metals such as Sodium and Magnesium.



DRY POWDER TYPE



3. FOAM TYPE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Foam type extinguishers consists of two containers the inner and the outer.
- The outer container contains solution of Sodium bicarbonate to which a foam stabiliser is added and the inner container (a long metal tube) has solution of Aluminium sulphate.
- In order to operate, the operator pulls the knob of extinguisher and turn it over so that the two solutions inside get mixed and the foam gets expelled from the extinguisher.
- The jet of foam is directed at the far end of the liquid under fire with a gentle sweeping movement to drop down the foam on the surface of the liquid.
- This type of extinguisher is used to fight class 'B' Fires involving flammable liquids like Oils, Solvents, Petroleum products, Varnishes, Paints ete,
- The foam expelled forms a blanket over the surface of liquid on Fire and extinguishes the Fire by smothering.



4. CARBON DIOXIDE TYPE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Carbon dioxide extinguisher contains Carbon dioxide in the cylinder as liquid under pressure.
- To operate, the safety pin is removed or the valve is unscrewed depending upon the design. Carbon dioxide is released from a discharge horn through a high pressure flexible hose.
- The jet of Carbon dioxide should be seated at the base of fire, starting at one edge and sweeping across the surface of burning material. When using on fires in electrical equipment's the current should be switched off before directing the jet or horn at fire.
- Carbon dioxide released acts as an effective extinguishing agent. It reduces the oxygen content of air to a point where combustion cannot continue.
- This type of fire extinguisher is used to fight fires in Oils, Petroleum products, Gaseous substances under pressure and also on Electrical and Electronic apparatus.



SAFE USAGE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHER







DO'S OF FIRE MANAGEMENT

Keep godowns neat and clean. Build stack strictly to stack plan. Ensure **"No Smoking"** & display **"No Smoking Boards".** Arrange periodical check up of electrical installation. Observe the local fire regulations. Ensure fire preparedness by maintaining First Aid and Fire Fighting Equipment's. Keep air inlets and windows free from obstructions. Maintain contacts with the nearest Fire Service Station. Conduct periodical mock fire drill.

> Raise fire alarm Use appropriate Fire Extinguishers Inform nearest Fire Service Station Ensure safety of inmates Inform your senior officers Inform Police for security Render First Aid to the injured Rush them to the nearest Hospital, if necessary.

DON'TS OF FIRE MANAGEMENT

Do not store / keep mats & gunnies in loose condition. Do not store hazardous and non-hazardous goods together. Do not carry naked fire lamp or lighted candles in the premises. Do not block the alleyways and haulages. Do not allow loose or temporary connections or pendent electric lights. Avoid using oversize fuses. Do not allow accumulation of wastages or growth of grass in the vicinity. Do not misuse of fire extinguishers, hydrants and buckets. Do not use water on fires of electrical origin or on flammable liquid fires. Do not keep the Fire Fighting Equipment's inside the godowns.

Important Points To Remember

- The Fire Brigade must be called on outbreak at the earliest, and the alarm raised.
- Attempt to use a Fire Extinguisher should be made only if it is safe to do so.
- If the fire shows the sign of going out of control, it is best not to try to use an Extinguisher.
- To fight a fire, check up the position where access to the fire is unrestricted but where a quick and safe retreat is possible.
- In an indoor fire, stay close to the door, outdoors stay on the upwind side of the fire.
- A crouching posture will minimise the effects of smoke and heat. It will also help to approach close to the fire.
- Care should be taken to ensure that fire is completely extinguished and that it is not left smouldering.









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