



Brock University
Facilities Management Operating Procedures

Subject: Fire Extinguisher Clean-up Procedure

Approval: Associate Vice President

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Fire Extinguisher Clean-up Procedure

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1.0 Background - The discharge of a fire extinguisher creates a cloud of dust of dry chemical agent which may be mildly corrosive. The cloud of dust settles in time which then can be cleaned using the procedure below ensuring staff/contractor uses the prescribed personal protective equipment and material.

2.0 Purpose - To establish proper procedures for the cleanup of fire extinguisher dust in order to perform this function safely and with the required materials.

3.0 General Information - The following is a list of commonly used fire extinguishing systems and their corresponding classes of fire. The classes are indicated in parentheses such as (A, B, C):

Multi-Purpose Dry Chemical (A, B, C)

A dry chemical agent called mono ammonium phosphate. The chemical is non-conductive and can be mildly corrosive if moisture is present. In order to avoid corrosion, it is necessary to scrub and thoroughly cleanup the contacted area once the fire is out. A dry chemical fire extinguisher is usually used in schools, general offices, hospitals, homes, etc.



Regular Dry Chemical (B, C)

A dry chemical agent called sodium bicarbonate. It is non-toxic, non-conductive and non-corrosive. It is easy to cleanup, requiring only vacuuming, sweeping or flushing with water. Extinguishers with sodium bicarbonate are usually used in residential kitchens, laboratories, garages, etc.

Carbon Dioxide (B, C)

Carbon dioxide removes oxygen to stop a fire but has limited range. It is environmentally friendly and leaves no residue, so cleanup is unnecessary. Extinguishers with carbon dioxide are usually used in contamination-sensitive places such as computer rooms, labs, food storage areas, processing plants, etc.

Fuel Source	Class of Fire	Type of Extinguisher (Extinguishing Agent)
Ordinary combustibles (e.g. trash, wood, paper, cloth)	A	Water; chemical foam; dry chemical*
Flammable liquids (e.g. oils, grease, tar, gasoline, paints, thinners)	B	Carbon dioxide (CO ₂); halon**; dry chemical; aqueous film forming foam (AFFF)
Electricity (e.g. live electrical equipment)	C	CO ₂ ; halon; dry chemical

4.0 Supervisor's Responsibilities –

1. To respond to the area where the extinguisher has been discharged and evacuates any occupants within the immediate vicinity of the spill (if the spill occurs in a dorm or surrounding area, assistance may be required from Residence staff to evacuate students).
2. Secure the area with caution tape and signs to prevent entry.
3. Notify Campus Security and Residence Service desk (if necessary) of action taken
4. Assess the size and location of the spill and determine if ample internal resources are available for the cleanup or if a spill response contractor is required.



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5. Ensure internal resources or spill response contractor wear proper protective equipment and follow the procedures outlined below.
6. Inspect area after completion of cleanup and if safe reopen area and inform necessary stakeholders.

5.0 **Custodial Staff/Spill Response Contractor's Responsibilities-** To adhere to this procedure while they are performing spill cleanup work, this includes wearing proper personal protective equipment and using proper equipment.

6.0 **Personal Protective Equipment -**

1. Particulate respirator R95 or N95
2. Eye protection
3. Disposable gloves
4. Coverall with hood to protect skin/clothing

7.0 **Equipment –**

1. Hepa Vacuum
2. Micro Fibre cloths
3. Micro Fibre floor dust mop
4. Mop, bucket, wringer with general purpose cleaner
5. Spray bottles with general purpose cleaner
6. Step ladder
7. Garbage bags

8.0 **Cleaning Procedure –**

1. Allow dust particles to settle for two (2) hours.
2. Gather necessary equipment as listed above.
3. Put on all personal protective equipment as listed above.
4. Start of by vacuuming fire equipment dust from high to low areas including lights, furniture, walls and floors.
5. Using the microfiber cloths, wipe down all surfaces from high to low including lights, furniture and walls (dampen cloths with general purpose cleaner as required).
6. Use the microfiber floor dust mop on the entire floor (change pad as required).
7. Remove protective clothing just outside contained area and place in garbage bag and place used cloths in same garbage bag.
8. Clean shoes and area just outside containment room with the vacuum.
9. Bring equipment back to storage room and clean material in garbage bag.
10. Wash hands thoroughly.