

Firefighting equipment may be limited to fire extinguishers, buckets and fire axes. This equipment is designed for rapid reaction to and control of relatively small fires at the time of ignition.

Vessels are constructed using many readily flammable materials (fiberglass, wood, plastic) and utilize highly flammable fuels (gasoline, diesel, propane, compressed natural gas) so the response time is critical.

A vessel that is close by another vessel, which is on fire, may be able to extinguish or contain the fire before it develops beyond the capability of the vessel's equipment. The vessel master must assess a fire situation relative to the vessel's ability to cope with it.

Never risk your life to save property.

There are four types of extinguishing agents commonly found on vessels:

1. Water
2. Dry chemical powder
3. Carbon dioxide
4. Halon gas (no longer acceptable in government)

Water, always in plentiful supply, is good for fighting "A" class fires.



Water is most likely going to be applied from pumps / hoses or buckets. Water is most effective when used under pressure in the form of fog. Water applied by hose or bucket can be used effectively to extinguish burning wood, upholstery, bedding and other combustible solids, excluding fiberglass.



When using water to extinguish a fire keep the following in mind:

- Sporadic dousing by bucket will not be effective against a major fire
- Water will turn into steam further hampering visibility already obscured by smoke

When flames are extinguished, examine burnt combustibles for hot spots.

NOTE: Large quantities of water used in firefighting may affect the stability of the vessel. Consider how much time it takes to start pumps and ready hoses, versus a rapid response with extinguishers.

Fire extinguishers are classified according to the type of fire that may be extinguished and the size of the extinguisher: