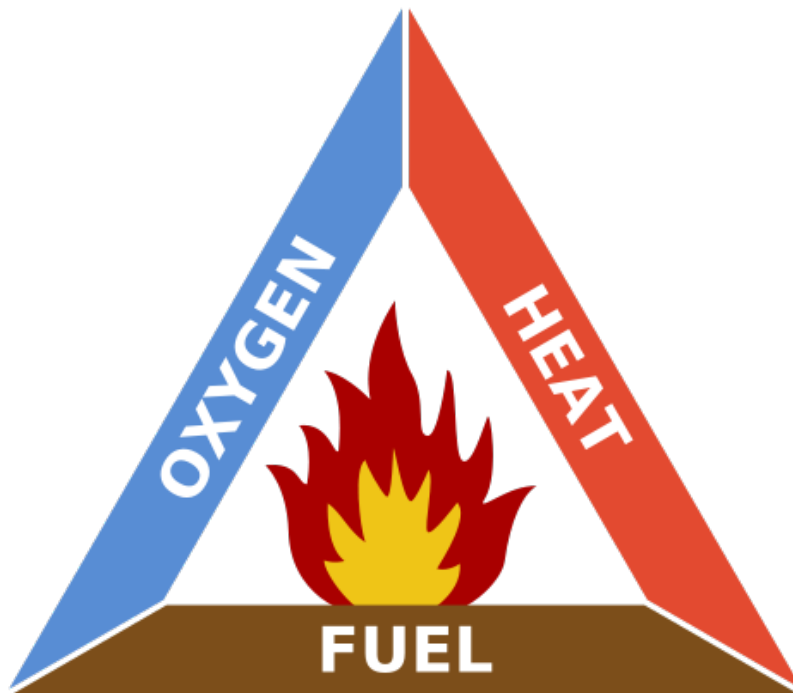


Fire Fighting and Detection

A fire starts when a **flammable material (fuel)** comes in contact with a **heat source** and **oxygen**. These three elements are needed for a fire to start. These three elements exist in almost all Irish workplaces, therefore preventative and control measures are necessary to reduce the risk of fire.



*image created by Gustavb (source Wikipedia)

Fire fighting

Never put yourself at risk! Fire extinguishers should only be used on small fires.

1. Use a suitable type of extinguisher
2. Remove the safety clip for the extinguisher
3. Aim the hose at the base of the fire
4. Squeeze the lever to start the extinguisher
5. Sweep the hose across the base of the fire

Fire Extinguishers

There are a number of different fire extinguishers that are used on different types of fires. A brief description of the types of extinguisher and what it should be used for are listed below:

Type	Water	Foam	CO2	Dry Powder	Wet Chemical
Colour	Red	Cream	Black	Blue	Yellow
For use on	Wood, paper, textiles	Wood, paper, textiles Flammable liquids	Flammable liquids Electrical Fires	Flammable liquids and gases Electrical Fires	Wood, paper, textiles Cooking oils, fats
NOT for use on	Flammable liquids, metals or gases Live electrical equipment Cooking oils, fats	Live electrical equipment Flammable metals or gas Cooking oils, fats	Wood, paper, textiles Flammable metals or gas Cooking oils, fats	Flammable metals Cooking oils, fats	Flammable liquids, metals or gases Live electrical equipment

Emergency Planning

All workplaces need to have an emergency plan in place for the event of a fire, explosion or other emergency.

An emergency plan should include:

1. The types of emergencies that may occur (fire, explosion, etc.)
2. The alarms that are installed and details of their inspection and maintenance
3. People responsible for certain tasks (e.g. if you have first-aiders, health and safety representatives, fire marshals, etc.)
4. The local fire brigade, ambulance, doctor, hospital and their phone numbers
5. Communication of the plan with employees
6. Emergency evacuation drills
7. Escape routes

In the event of a fire:

- Keep calm
- Sound the alarm or report the fire **immediately** (if there is not alarm near you, shouting 'fire' may be sufficient)
- If you have been trained and feel confident, only attempt to put out small fires
DO NOT PUT YOURSELF AT RISK
- If the fire can't be put out, go to your workplace assembly point and wait for instruction

Upon hearing a fire alarm:

- Leave your workspace in a **quick calm manner**
- Do not stop to gather your belongings
- Go **directly** to the fire assembly point
- Do not return to your work area until you are advised it is safe to do so

DO NOT PUT YOURSELF OR OTHERS AT RISK!