Fire Suppression

Upon the discovery of a fire, and based on its state, you may attempt to suppress the blaze. There is a wide range of suppressants available to us . These include:

- Water hoses/hydrant
- Blankets
- Sand
- Soil
- Compressed Fire extinguisher

Classes of fires and the recommended extinguishing media

Class A - Combustible materials – water works well against fires supported by wood, paper, etc.

Class B - Flammable liquids - Foam, Carbon Dioxide and Dry Power Extinguishers work well against gasoline, paint, greases etc.

Class C - Electrically energized fires - Carbon Dioxide and Dry Power Extinguishers work well against electrical fires.

Class D - Combustible metals - Class D Compressed Fire extinguishers are created specially for fires of this nature. Dry sand and ash are also effective

Rules for Fighting Fire

The rules for fighting fire are described as the 3 "A"s

Activate the building's alarm system and notify the fire department.

Assist persons in immediate danger and those incapable of exiting on their own.

Attempt to extinguish the fire

How to use the Fire Extinguisher

The acronym **P.A.S.S.** is used for this operation.

Pull the safety pin at the top of the extinguisher

Aim the nozzle towards the base of the fire.

(Stand approximately 8 feet (4-5 steps) away from the fire and………)

Squeeze the levers together

Sweep the nozzle from side to side

Have a fire free day!!

Recommended Maintenance Schedule

Item	Activity	Frequency
Fire Extinguisher	Inspection	Monthly
	Service	Annually
Smoke Detector	Test	Monthly
	Service	Annually
Electronic Alarms	Test	Monthly
	Service	Annually
Fire Hose	Inspection	Annually
Automatic Suppression System	Inspection	Semi-Annually
Sprinkler System	Inspection	Annually
	Service	Annually/as necessary
Electricity Supply	Suspend	Monthly

Revised by the Chief Emergency Management Officer
Office of Strategic Planning and Enterprise Management
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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
MONA CAMPUS, JAMAICA, WEST INDIES

FIRE SAFETY

Fire is an ever present threat to life and property. It can occur at any time, and in any place. We must be prepared

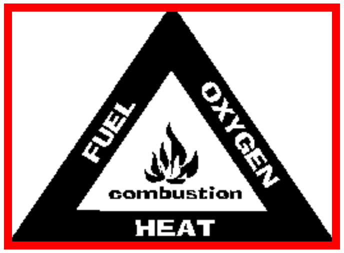
Theory of Fire

Fire is seen as one of the most destructive forces of nature. An uncontained fire has the potential to disrupt businesses, social and family activities; destroy lives and properties.

Without over simplifying the process; fire occurs when a chemical reaction takes place, this involves **Fuel**, **Heat** and **Oxygen.**

The Triangle of Combustion illustrates the elements needed to cause and/or sustain a fire.

TRIANGLE OF COMBUSTION



Classification of Fire

Fires are classified based on their primary fuel source. These are shown below:

Class A - Class A fires involves combustibles and/or fibrous material, such as wood, paper, cloth, rubber and some plastics.

Class B - Class B fires involves flammable or combustible liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, paint, paint thinners and propane gas.

Class C - Class C fires involves electrically energized equipment, such as appliances, switches, panel boxes and power tools.

Class D - Class D fires involves combustible metals, such as magnesium, titanium, potassium and sodium.

Fire Prevention Tips

- Only light fires in designated area.
- Smoke only in designated areas.
- Keep matches /lighters out of the reach of children.
- Cook only in designated areas.
- Do not overload electrical circuits.
- Do not tamper with electrical supply systems or fire safety systems.
- Turn off appropriate appliances at the end of the work day.
- Know how to turn off LPG (i.e. cooking gas).
- Do not leave fires unattended.
- Unplug electrical appliances when not in use.
- Know how to operate electrical breakers.
- Support your systems with a Fire suppression equipment.
- Ensure persons know how to use fire suppression equipment.
- Install/maintain fire detection systems.
- Report/address broken electrical fittings or any other hazardous condition to your supervisor.
- Store flammable/combustible materials away from spark– producing sources.
- Check all appliances, electrical cords and plugs for cracks and frays.
- Never use electrical appliance near water. Do not touch electrical appliance when wet.
- Read labels for product incompatibility and store accordingly
- Adhere to the National Building code of Jamaica

Alarm & Detection

Detection

Fire Detection systems vary from the senses of human beings and animals, to highly sophisticated electronic systems.

The most common electronic alarm systems in Jamaica are Smoke Detectors and Heat Sensors.

Smoke Detector - detects one or more changes in the protected environment that are indicative of the development of fire conditions. For example, if there is too much smoke in a room, the smoke detector gives off a "beeping" sound to alert persons that there is an emergency at hand.

Heat Sensor - works in a similar manner to the smoke detector. The only difference is that it takes excess heat to trigger the alarm.

Alarm

Fire alarm system may include a horn and strobe combination, a bell or a siren. This alarm systems has a flashing strobe light along with a blaring siren or bell.

Fire alarm systems may be activated by a Pull Station. The pull station vary with regards to activation, for example the instructions may read "pull down", "push in then pull down" and "lift and then pull"

On the discovery of a fire, raise an alarm by any means possible. Where an alarm system exists, activate it. In the absence of a fire alarm system shout "FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!" to alert other persons.

Make noise to attract attention. Bang on metal, wood or anything that you can find. The aim is to attract attention.

Call the fire department by dialing 110 (Preferablly from the OUTSIDE of the building.)