

Technical Guidance for Fire Extinguishers for use in Formal/Informal settlements provided by Kindling Safety <https://www.kindlingsafety.org/>

Kindling

Fire Safety Guidance

Socio-technical context

- Environment and sustainability
- Settlement types
- Social infrastructure
- Culture, incl. social norms, religion, holidays
- Relationship with fire (positive and negative)
- Gender, disability & inclusion
- Daily living

Fire safety education

- Humanitarian sector
- Community

Prevention

- Means of cooking
- Means of heating
- Means of lighting
- Electricity
- Individual habits and practices

Fire detection and alarm

Evacuation

- Evacuation routes
- Human behavior
- Evacuation management

Minimize fire spread (shelter/building scale)

- Materials of construction
- Shelter contents
- Compartmentation
- **Localized fire response systems**

Minimize fire spread (settlement scale)

- Materials of construction
- Separation distances between structures
- Fire resistance of separating elements
- Fire breaks

Firefighting, search and rescue

- Incident command system
- Emergency communications
- Emergency vehicle access
- Water access
- Firefighting resources & training
- First aid & ambulatory service

Post-fire

- Fire investigation
- Fire incident reporting
- Healthcare: physical health
- Healthcare: mental health
- Building back safer

Türkiye Earthquake 2023
Shelter Sector Technical Working Group Meeting



Fire extinguishers are not a one size fits all solution!



- 1) Like buckets of water and sand, fire blankets, and cooking pot lids, fire extinguishers can help to extinguish a fire confined to a small area if
 - The fire is not growing, and the room is not filled with smoke
 - The operator knows how to use the fire extinguisher
 - It is within easy reach (close to exit), in working order, and fully charged
 - The operator has a clear escape route that will not be blocked by fire
 - The fire extinguisher matches the type of fire being fought
 - Fire extinguisher is large enough to put out the fire
 - Fire extinguisher carries label of independent testing laboratory
 - Children should not be trained to use fire extinguishers – they should be trained to get out and stay out if there is a fire
- 2) A fire inside a shelter may lead to flashover in less than 1 minute, meaning evacuation should be the priority
- 3) It is not safe or effective to fight a fire involving an entire shelter with a fire extinguisher, let alone a fire that has spread to several shelters
 - It is not safe to stand within 6 feet of these larger fires, especially without appropriate personal protective equipment
 - Limited discharge capacity of fire extinguishers limit their effectiveness
- 4) Social dimensions and community ownership
 - Sensitivity is required around distribution of any kit
 - Community buy-in and ownership is critical to assure kit if available and used as intended

For fire safety support, contact
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