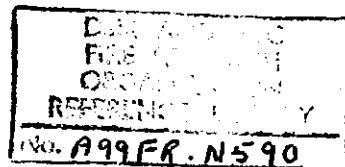


LIBRARY REFERENCE ONLY



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

AND

FIRE OFFICES' COMMITTEE

JOINT FIRE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

FIRE RESEARCH NOTE

NO. 590

COLOUR AND MODE OF OPERATION OF EXTINGUISHERS

This report has not been published and should be considered as confidential advance information. No reference should be made to it in any publication without the written consent of the Director of Fire Research.

March, 1965.

Fire Research Station.
Boreham Wood.
Herts.
(phone ELStree 1341)

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND FIRE OFFICES' COMMITTEE
JOINT FIRE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

COLOUR AND MODE OF OPERATION OF EXTINGUISHERS

For many years discussion has taken place as to the colour and mode of operation of extinguishers, and many opinions have been expressed. In the absence of any clear technical preference for one colour or one mode of operation, it would be advantageous to choose the colour and the mode of operation that the public believed to be the most usual, for in that way a minimum of re-education of the public would be required when any standard were issued. With this in mind, the attached questionnaire was circulated to the staff of the Joint Fire Research Organization for completion. In completing the questionnaire staff were asked to select the most common colour and mode of operation of extinguishers.

The following replies have been received which have been classified as follows:-

Class A Scientific and experimental staff who are familiar with extinguishers

Class B Scientific and experimental staff whose work does not involve using extinguishers

Class C Non-scientific staff - clerical and industrial etc.

Table

Beliefs regarding colour and mode of operation of extinguishers

	Method of operating		Colour	
	Strike knob on top	Other methods	Red	Other colours
Class A	10	-	10	-
Class B	41	10	49	2
Class C	44	20	59	5

It will be seen that there is a consensus of opinion that extinguishers are red and that they are operated by striking a knob on the top. This becomes less definite among people not closely associated with extinguishers though the beliefs are still strongly marked.

EXTINGUISHING MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT SECTION

We are trying to find out what colour extinguishers should be and what should be the method of operating them. You can help by answering the following two questions. Please do not try to find out suitable answers by discussing this with others or by looking for extinguishers and then filling up the questionnaire. The information we want is what you believe at the moment.

- (1) What is the most common colour for a fire extinguisher?
(Please underline one colour)

White Yellow Red Cream Blue Green Other colour

- (2) What is the usual way of operating it?
(Please underline one method)

Release spring catch, turn over, pierce, strike knob on top,
raise lever, lift up knob, pull out plunger, some other method

Signed

PLEASE RETURN TO