



SAFETY BULLETIN

How to Dispose of Old Fire Extinguishers

Step 1. Extinguisher identification-

To safely dispose of a fire extinguisher, it is important to first identify the type of extinguisher.

**Dry Chemical
(currently in use)**



**CO2 Extinguisher
(currently in use)**



**Class K
(currently in use)**



**Carbon Tetrachloride
(Use ceased mid-60's)**



**Halon
(Use ceased mid-90's)**



**Pressurized Water
(currently in use)**



Step 2. Content identification-

Dry Chemical- Most dry chemical extinguishers contain ammonium phosphate and used for multipurpose extinguishment.

Health effects: Can cause mild eye and respiratory irritation.

CO2- Carbon Dioxide- Contain Carbon Dioxide and used for electrical and flammable liquids.

Health Effects: Asphyxiation, local cold exposure.

Class K- Class K extinguishers generally contain Potassium acetate and used in commercial kitchens for grease fires.

Health Effects: None

Carbon Tetrachloride- Used as a multipurpose extinguisher until the mid-60's.

Health Effects: When carbon tetrachloride contacts high heat it creates phosgene gas which can be lethal. Carbon Tetrachloride is also a known carcinogen.

Halon- Used for electrical and flammable liquid fires in areas that contain sensitive electrical components.

Health Effects: There are no lasting health effects, but halon is a Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) which has negative environmental aspects and is no longer in production.

Pressurized Water Extinguisher- Used for Ordinary combustibles like paper, wood or fabric.

Health Effects: There are no health effects.

Step 3. Disposal

1. Both Carbon Tetrachloride and Halon extinguishers should be disposed of utilizing our stop program.

STOP Program (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants)

To prevent contamination of our groundwater, the following items should be disposed of at the Town's Household Hazardous Waste (STOP) Facility at the Brookhaven Town Landfill.

Materials must be transportable, in sealed containers and clearly labeled indicating product. Containers brought to the facility cannot be returned unless a technician is on hand.

STOP Program's Hours of Operation

April 1 - October 31:

Wednesdays and Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 12 noon

November 1 - March 31:

Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 12 noon

2. Non-hazardous extinguishers can be disposed of in the following method

While wearing a dust mask, wrap a garbage bag tightly around the nozzle and discharge until empty. The garbage bag can then be discarded with your household garbage collection.