

# The Facts



OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

## On Accidental Fire Extinguisher Residue Clean Up (Class ABC)

Type ABC multi-purpose fire extinguishers contain ammonium phosphate and/or ammonium sulfate powders that can be irritating to the eyes, skin, and lungs. Caution should be observed to avoid breathing the dust immediately after Fire Extinguisher discharge, as well as when cleaning up discharged powder waste.

### Important Reminders

- Custodial Staff will **NOT** clean-up Class D or Class K Fire Extinguisher residue.
- CO2 and Halotron (Clean Agent) Fire Extinguishers do not require clean-up.

Class ABC Fire Extinguisher. You can find the fire extinguisher class on the label.



Class D Fire Extinguisher



Class K Fire Extinguisher



### Clean Up Process

1. Block off or mark affected area, if possible, to avoid spread and disturbance of discharged powdered waste. **Immediately** notify Supervisor of discharge and discuss cleanup plans.
2. Acquire appropriate Personal Protective Equipment: Dust Mask, Face and Eye Protection, Gloves, minimize skin exposure (arms/legs), covered shoes.
3. Use a shop vacuum with a HEPA filter for ABC powder cleanups to prevent the dispersion of dust into the air. Avoid sweeping for this reason. Collect both bagged powder and contaminated filter, if using a disposable filter, label contents as "Hazardous Waste Ammonium phosphate/sulfate debris, Non-RCRA" and notify OES for pickup. If vacuum does not have a collection bag, carefully empty powder into a waste bag.
4. Avoid using water for bulk cleanup – the powder becomes pasty (and mildly corrosive) when wet, and it more difficult to pick up.
5. But **DO** wet-mop or wet-wipe/damp sponge any residue that is left after vacuuming cleaning the largest amount of the powder.

### Personal Protective Equipment

1. Wear a dust mask
2. Wear nitrile or rubber gloves
3. Wear a face shield and safety glasses with side shields/safety goggles.
4. No exposed skin if possible. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and closed toe shoes.