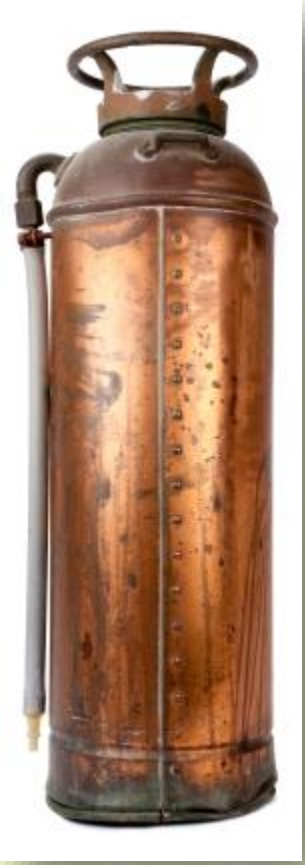
Fire Extinguisher



In the past, people used basins, wooden buckets and other traditional containers to carry water to put out a fire. Unfortunately, these traditional containers were found to be rather inefficient and the process of putting out a fire was too slow. As a result, people thought of different methods and tools to put out a fire efficiently.

The first version of the modern portable fire extinguisher was invented by Captain George William Manby. In 1813, Manby observed the inability of the firemen in Edinburgh to reach the upper floors of buildings on fire. This inability resulted in the buildings burning down and leaving many people injured. Some died tragically during these fires. These tragedies affected him seriously. Thus, Manby was inspired to create ways of fixing that problem as he did not want more people to get hurt or injured during a fire.

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Manby's portable fire extinguisher was a sturdy container which was equipped with a retaining holt and an ejector. The extinguisher could hold three gallons of water; the remainder contained compressed air. The operation of the portable extinguisher was not complicated. When the stopcock at the top of the cylinder was turned, the compressed water would be forced out through a tube running from the valve to the interior base of the cylinder. It had the effect of forcing the water out towards the fire. In addition, he designed a leather cover for the portable fire extinguisher, that was also equipped with a belt to alleviate the burden of carrying the fire extinguisher.

Fifty years later, a Frenchman, Francois Carlier invented a portable fire extinguisher which was lighter, and it propelled carbon dioxide. The invention of the fire extinguishers containing chemicals gradually became popular in the late 19th century. The chemical foam extinguisher was invented around 1905 by Alexander Laurant of Russia. This extinguisher propelled foams of carbon dioxide. The foam floated on burning oil and paint which prevented the entry of oxygen. Without the presence of oxygen, a fire will not be able to burn. Around 1912, Pyrene pioneered the carbon tetrachloride (CTC) extinguisher, whereby the liquid was expelled from a brass or chrome container by a hand pump, onto the fire. The CTC vaporised and extinguished the flames as a result of the chemical reactions that were produced.

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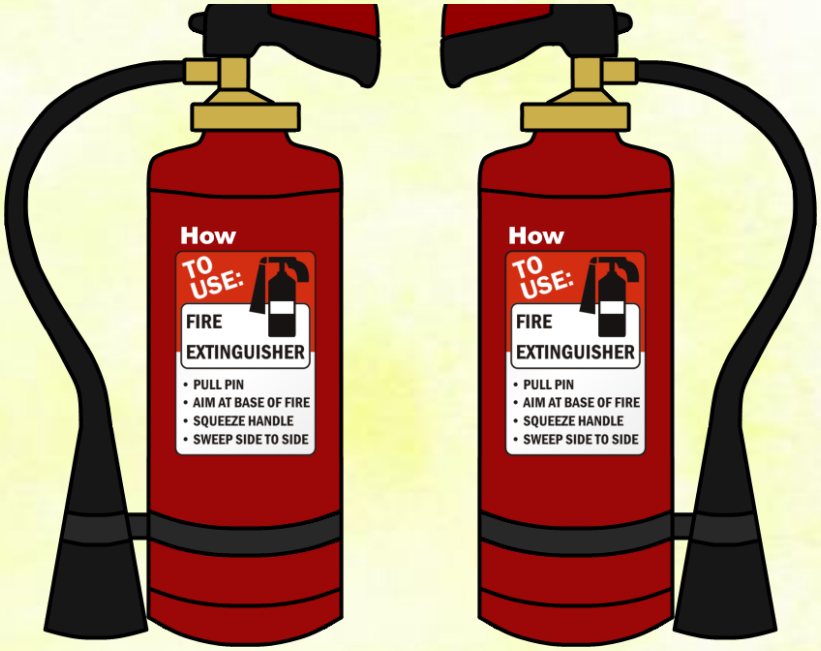
Fire extinguishers have been improved and transformed throughout the decades because inventors keep on exploring for new innovative ideas. These great inventors should be celebrated and honoured for their hard work which has resulted in firemen being able to put out fires efficiently and saving more lives.



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Food for Thought:

- New technologies are invented through keen observations.
- In accordance with the demands to create more popular, practical and efficient products or services in the market, people continue to improve and innovate.