



Best Choice Projects

Training Manual

Perform Basic Fire Fighting



Unit Standard: 12484
NQF: 02 | Credits: 04

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PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

LEARNER GUIDE CONTENT

A	Training Programme Introduction	2
1	Introduction to Basic Fire Fighting	4
2	Identifying Different Types of Fires	9
3	Understand, Explain and Practice Fire Prevention	14
4	Operate Basic Fire Fighting Equipment and Perform Fire Fighting Procedures	23
5	Fire Fighters Attitude	37



PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

Training Programme Introduction

Welcome to the training programme to Perform Basic Fire Fighting.

Who is the training programme for?

This training programme is designed for both novice and experienced learners who may be expected to perform basic fire fighting techniques while performing their daily duties.

It also makes good business sense that employees who are expected to supervise these related activities should know what the correct procedures are so that they are competent to identify good, bad, safe or unsafe practices during the course of their supervision day / shift.

Training Programme Purpose

Learners accredited with this unit standard will be able to select and use the appropriate fire fighting equipment to extinguish or control fires in the workplace.



PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

LEARNERS ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES.

During the training, the learner is expected to:

- ❑ Take part in the activities
- ❑ Ask questions
- ❑ Enter into discussions that have meaning to the topic.

The training is meant to enable the learner to master the skills, and this can only be done by the learner making the effort to learn.

The facilitator's purpose is to guide and assist the learners on the path to competency. While the training is not necessarily a part of the productive work place, learners will be expected to behave in a manner required in the work place such as the wearing of personal protective equipment where necessary.

Unit Standard

A unit standard has been generated by the relevant Standards Generating Body, submitted to the relevant National Standards Body and subsequently registered by the South African Qualifications Authority, for persons required to “perform basic fire fighting”.

Let us first familiarise ourselves with the unit standard so that we are aware of all the...

- Specific outcomes
- Essential embedded knowledge
- Critical cross field outcomes
- Range statements
- Assessment criteria

REMEMBER WE

TRAIN TOWARDS THE UNIT STANDARD & ASSESS AGAINST IT

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 4	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

1

Introduction to Basic Fire Fighting

MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this module the learner will be able to...

- ❑ **Explain why Health and Safety is an issue at a working place**
- ❑ **Identify who is ultimately responsible for the Health and Safety of employees, contractors and visitors**
- ❑ **Explain why it is important that workers are able to fight fires in the work place**
- ❑ **Explain the roles and responsibilities a fire fighter must fulfil**



NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 5	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

Introduction

The work place is a place where people come together to perform specific tasks for their employer.

Since there are a number of people performing different activities during their working shift, using different machines, equipment, tools and material, there is a great possibility of incidents occurring due to a variety of reasons.

THE WORK PLACE
IS THEREFORE
A SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK AREA
FOR ALL ON THE PREMISES

It is therefore extremely important that all...

- Employees
- Contract workers
- Visitors to a working place

... are assured of their Safety and Health.

It is therefore the responsibility of the company owners, Chief Executive Officers (CEO) or Directors to ensure all Safety, Health and Environmental aspects have been addressed at the place of work, as they are ultimately responsible for any non-conformance related to Safety, Health and Environmental aspects.

Since we are all aware that we work in an industry and work environment that is potentially dangerous and a threat to our health and safety.

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 6	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

We must also understand that not only is our or others health and safety at risk, but the equipment, tools and property may also be threatened with destruction or damage.

It is important that we are able to limit damage to persons or property in the event of an emergency.

One of the more common or likely emergencies we may have to deal with on site is a fire.

A fire will present a threat to persons and property and needs to be limited as much as possible, considering the fire fighting equipment we have at our disposal and the magnitude of the risk the fire poses to us and others.

During our working career we may be required to deal with a fire.

This may only happen once or twice in our working careers, but it is important that we know how to use a fire extinguisher and other relevant fire fighting equipment.

Knowing how to deal with a fire could save our life, the lives of fellow employees, public and property.

It is important that we know :

- ❑ Where the fire fighting equipment is
- ❑ Which class of fire we are dealing with
- ❑ Which type of fire fighting equipment to use for the class of fire
- ❑ How to use the different fire fighting equipment
- ❑ Where the fire alarm is
- ❑ How and who to alert in the case of a fire



PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

- ❑ How and who to report any injuries to

For us to be able to deal with any of the above aspects of fire fighting and control, we need to understand the following:

- ❑ The chemistry of fire
- ❑ Methods of extinguishing a fire
- ❑ General sources of fire ignition
- ❑ Good housekeeping to prevent potential fires
- ❑ Classification of fires
- ❑ Fire extinguishing mediums
- ❑ Fire fighting rules



During this training programme we will address all of the above so as to ensure that we all become well trained, competent and safe fire fighters.

We must remember that we are working with people and therefore the “Human Factor” must always be taken into account.

It must therefore be expected that at some stage of our working career, something is going to go wrong and a fire will occur.



NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 8	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

NOTE

**A FIRE FIGHTER
HAS A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY
AND
REQUIRES A TRAINED, DEDICATED AND EXPERIENCED PERSON**

IF YOU ARE...

**NOT CONVINCED THAT YOU WANT TO BE
A FIRE FIGHTER
THEN DO NOT ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT
APPOINTMENT COMES WITH RESPONSIBILITIES
AND ADDITIONAL DUTIES
OVER AND ABOVE YOUR NORMAL TASKS**



Discuss the roles and responsibilities a dedicated fire fighter must perform.



PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

2

Identifying Different Types of Fires

MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this module the learner will be able to...

- ❑ Identify the elements of a fire
- ❑ Identify the different classes of fires



PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

Introduction

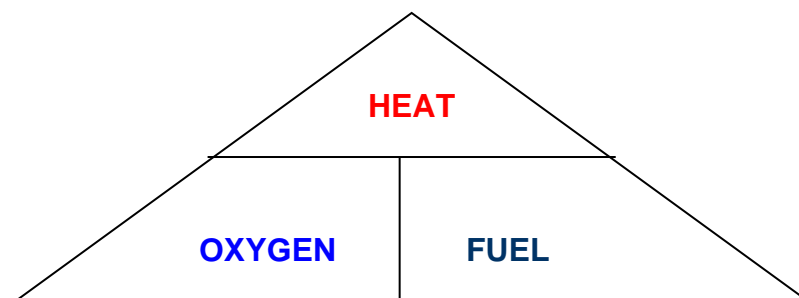
Before we can fight fires effectively let us first spend some time understand how a fire “works”

Elements of Fire

Fire (combustion) is a chemical reaction during which both light and heat are evolved.

A fire involves three elements:

These elements are required to cause and sustain a fire, should any of the required elements be removed the triangle will collapse therefore combustion will cease.



Oxygen

The oxygen to support combustion is usually drawn from the atmosphere surrounding the fire.

Air contains the following gases:

- ❑ Oxygen 20.90 % (at sea level)
- ❑ Nitrogen 77.00 %
- ❑ Water vapour 00.09 %

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 11	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

- ❑ Argon 00.09 %
- ❑ Carbon Dioxide 00.03 %
- ❑ Other gases 00.07 %
- ❑ 23 % oxygen sparks will burst in to flames.
- ❑ 40 % oxygen if mixed with oil and grease will cause it to burn.

Heat

Heat is normally generated within the combustion process and / or it can be from an external chemical reaction or process. Friction also causes heat, e.g. if you rub your hands together you will feel it warms up.

Fuel

Combustible material like wood, paper, rags, gas, etc., is considered as fuel for a fire



Discuss the three elements required for a fire.

Classes of Fires

There are different classes of fire and each has a certain method of fighting it.

CLASS A Solid combustible materials

Class A fires are where ordinary solid flammable materials are present as indicated in the table below.

FUEL	<u>EXTINGUISHER</u>	COOLING	STARVATION	SMOTHERING
Cloth Paper Coal Wood Etc	Water Water spray Foam All purpose dry powder	Cool down by using water	Remove other flammable solids	Through sand on the fire

CLASS B Flammable Liquids / Gases

Class B fires are where flammable liquids, lubricants and gases are present.

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 12	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

FUEL	<u>EXTINGUISHER</u>	COOLING	STARVATION	SMOTHERING
Petrol Diesel Oil Solvents Etc	Fine water spray Foam CO 2	Cool down by using fine water spray	Remove other flammable liquids	Through sand on the liquid fire

CLASS C Electrical Fires

Class C fire may be of the class A or B type but where there is a presence of a live electricity source or installation.

FUEL	<u>EXTINGUISHER</u>	COOLING	STARVATION	SMOTHERING
Electricity	All purpose dry powder CO 2	NO	Remove other flammable solids	Through sand on the fire

Warning :

Never use water, foam extinguishers or hose reels on Class C fires.

CLASS D Metal Fires

Class D fires are where metals are present as indicated in the table below.

FUEL	<u>EXTINGUISHER</u>	COOLING	STARVATION	SMOTHERING
Potassium Sodium Calium Lithium	Chalk Graphite powder Sand	NO	Remove other flammable solids	Through sand on the fire

CLASS E Gasses

Class E fires are where gasses are present.

FUEL	<u>EXTINGUISHER</u>	COOLING	STARVATION	SMOTHERING
LPG Gas Acetylene Etc.	Fine water spray	YES	Remove other flammable solids	Through sand on the fire

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4



Discuss each class of fire and all the important aspects related to each type.

INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE



Complete the following exercise.

1. List the three elements of a fire.

2. How many classes of fire do we get?

--

3. List at least three classes of fires and what that class of fire is.

4. Should we use water or foam on a Class C fire?

--

5. If we remove one of the elements of a fire from the fire, will the fire die?

--

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

3

Understand, Explain and Practice Fire Prevention

MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this module the learner will be able to...

- ❑ **Explain the importance of fire awareness**
- ❑ **Identify the possible sources of fires**
- ❑ **Explain how fires spread**
- ❑ **Explain how a fire may be prevented from starting**
- ❑ **Explain what good housekeeping is and how it relates to fire prevention**



PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

Introduction

In this module we will look at how certain...

- Actions
- Awareness
- Housekeeping
- Etc.

...can contribute to preventing a fire from starting.



As we have learnt up till now, a fire requires at least three elements to be present to start.

It therefore makes sense that if we can keep these three elements apart, we should not have a fire.

In most workplaces a safety officer or fire prevention inspector will have completed a risk assessment to establish where the greatest dangers of fires starting are.

Once these risk areas have been identified by the specialists certain precautions will have been implemented.

Possible fire prevention methods that may have been implemented are:

- The positioning of fire extinguishers
- The appropriate type of fire extinguisher installed
- Water sprinkler systems installations
- Early fire warning detectors
- Etc.

Once these systems have been installed, other safety aspects related to fires in the workplace need to be implemented. These might include...

- Fire alarm sirens

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 16	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

- Clearly marked emergency exits
- Evacuation routes and procedures
- Emergency assembly points
- Fire fighting teams training
- First aiders training
- Etc.



All these fire related safety aspects, procedures and drills should have been explained to each employee during their company induction training before starting to work for the company.

General Sources of Fire

To completely understand how we can prevent fires we need to be able to identify possible sources or causes of fires.

It has been found that there are 16 likely sources of fires and 14 of these sources may be directly because of our actions.

The 16 sources identified are:

1	ELECTRICITY	25%
2	CIGARETTES	20%
3	FRICTION	10%
4	OVERHEATED MATERIAL	8%
5	HOT SURFACES	7%
6	OPEN FLAMES	7%
7	SPARKS THAT ESCAPE	5%
8	SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION	4%
9	EXPOSURE (RADIATION)	3%
10	ARSON	3%
11	MECHANICAL SPARKS	2%
12	MOLTEN METAL	2%
13	CHEMICAL REACTIONS	1%
14	STATIC DISCHARGE	1%
15	LIGHTENING	1%
16	UNKOWN FACTORS	1%



NK SKILLS TRAINING CENT		
VERSION : 01		LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

Let us take a closer look at some of these fire causes.

Electricity

As can be seen from the above table, electricity is the greatest cause of fires.

Electrical fires may start because of...

- Defective electrical appliances
- Damaged electrical cords and leads
- Looses electrical connections
- Overheating in poorly ventilated areas
- Short circuiting
- Electrical cables under carpets
- Radiant effect from heaters and stoves
- Heated surfaces such as irons, etc.

Hot Surfaces

Hot surfaces may cause a fire due to the heat radiated from the surface and a flammable item getting too heat and bursting into flames.

Heated surfaces may be caused due to...

- Friction
- Welding cutting
- Grinding
- Electrical equipment or appliances that have not been switched off
- Soldering irons

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 18	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

- Overheating in poor ventilation areas
- Etc.

<p style="text-align: center;">BEWARE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DO NOT PLACE FLAMMABLE ITEMS OR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ON A HOT SURFACE</p>
--

Open Flames

The main cause of the direct spread of flames is...

- Human negligence such as smoking, etc.
- Children playing with matches and lighters
- Arson
- Flammable liquids on open flames
- Poor housekeeping



Spontaneous Combustion

Spontaneous combustion is when flammable items suddenly burst into flames for no apparent reason.

Spontaneous combustion is usually caused by a chemical reaction when two or more substance or materials come into contact with each other and a chemical reaction takes place.

Items that may cause something to spontaneously combust are...

- Oil soaked rags
- Compost heaps
- Oxidising liquids left in the open

Very dry grass subjected to heat may also spontaneously combust.

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 19	LEARNER GUIDE

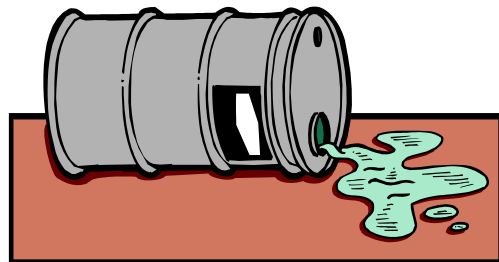
PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

Chemicals

Chemicals are extremely dangerous when mixed or when they accidentally come into contact with other chemicals.

We need to be extremely aware of ...

- Pool acid
- Household chemicals
- Industrial chemicals
- Fertilisers



Gasses

In the workplace we often come across or handle different types of gasses.

When working with or near gas we need to be extremely aware of...

- Gas cylinders left open or leaking
- Gas cylinders left on or near heated surfaces
- Faulty gas regulators
- Smoking near gas



Waste

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 20	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

Never underestimate the effect an old oily rag thrown into a waste bin may have.

Waste thrown into waste bins may react with other waste already in the bin and start a fire.

The Spread of Fires

Another aspect of understanding fire prevention is how fire spread once started.

The best example of how a fire may spread once started is the veld fire.

We have all seen how a small veld fire starts and because of factors such as very dry grass and wind, the fire suddenly becomes a big roaring fire, which can very quickly become out of control and cause a lot of damage over a wide area.

This type of fire spreads along the surface and ignites other flammable material or substances as it progresses.

We may also find a fire spreading when items that are stacked start to ignite the other items around, under or on top of the original item that caught alight.

Sometimes we may even find that as something burns, it breaks off, falls down and spreads the fire when it lands or touches other flammable items.

Preventing a Fire

We now understand what causes a fire and what to be aware of.

We know how a fire might spread.

Now let us look at how our actions and awareness may be able to prevent a fire from starting.

Fire prevention starts with...

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 21	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

- Good housekeeping
- Proper chemical and flammable liquid control
- Maintaining all electrical appliances
- Controlling smoking rules
- Strict implementation of “Fire Procedures and Controls”
- Sufficient and properly checked fire fighting equipment
- Frequent surveys and risk assessments

Good Housekeeping

Good housekeeping means that we place items in the correct designated areas, and ensure that items are stacked and stored correctly.

DEFINITION!
GOOD HOUSEKEEPING MEANS...
A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING AND EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE

By placing items in their designated storage areas we should not get...

- The wrong chemicals landing up next to each other
- Waste that may react with other waste in the same bin
- Items that may topple or fall over and start a fire
- Items stored on or near heat sources
- Heat sources near gas
- Live electrical equipment near water
- Items packed in front of fire fighting equipment or emergency exit points
- Etc.



Discuss good and bad housekeeping aspects.

GROUP DISCUSSION



In your groups discuss what you understand good housekeeping to be and list some good and bad housekeeping aspects at your

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 22	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

workplace.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

BAD HOUSEKEEPING

Other factors to be considered...

- Is there good lighting so that we can see where everything is and whether it is correctly stored?
- Is there good ventilation to ensure gases and fumes can disperse?
- Are all the aisles clear of obstructions and clearly marked?
- Are the storage racks clearly marked as to what item belongs there?
- Is there a good storage and stacking policy?
- Is the work area tidy and well planned?
- Are all the correct safety signs and symbols correctly displayed?
- Is all refuse and waste correctly managed?
- Are all flammable liquids and items correctly handled?

REMEMBER!

**MATERIALS, LIQUIDS AND ITEMS WITH A HIGH FIRE RISK
MUST BE STORED AND KEPT APART**

Factors to be aware of...

- Unsafe transporting methods and practices
- Too many flammable items handled at the same time
- Lack of adequate ventilation
- Inadequate storage facilities
- Equipment not inspected regularly
- Equipment maintenance not scheduled and adhered to
- No fire fighting equipment
- Incorrect fire fighting equipment
- Not enough fire fighting equipment
- Incorrect positioning of fire fighting equipment
- No fire fighting equipment maintenance and inspection schedule

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 23	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

- No fire fighting equipment testing or drills
- No fire fighting training
- No knowledge of the correct fire alarm
- No emergency fire evacuation plan or training

4

Operate Basic Fire Fighting Equipment and Perform Basic Fire Fighting Procedures

MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this module the learner will be able to...

- ❑ **Identify the different fire fighting equipment**
- ❑ **Explain when to use which type of fire fighting equipment**
- ❑ **Demonstrate how to use the different fire fighting equipment**
- ❑ **Demonstrate how to attack a fire**
- ❑ **Explain how to request assistance from professional fire fighting services**

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

Introduction

As part of your induction programme when starting work at an organisation, you will be informed where the fire fighting equipment is.

You will also be told where the fire alarms are and how to activate these alarms in the case of an emergency.

At the end of this training programme you will have been taught how to fight a fire and use the appropriate fire fighting equipment.

You will have been assessed to ensure that you are competent and when you go back to your workplace, you will be expected to fight a fire if one should start in your work area.

Make sure that you listen...
and remember all you are told
THIS INFORMATION COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE...

In this module we will look at the different types of fire fighting equipment we are expected to work with and the correct methods of using this equipment.

We will also look at the correct fire fighting procedures.



PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

Fire Fighting Equipment

Depending on the work environment and the risk assessments conducted, the Safety and Fire Officers will have received expert advice on what type of fire fighting equipment to install at your workplace.

For example, if your work area has a large open field surrounding it, the possibility of a dry grass veld fire starting and spreading into your work area exists.

The specialists would therefore have identified this possibility and risk and will have to ensure that there are “Fire Breaks” between the fields and the work area.

The specialists would also have identified the best type of fire fighting equipment for this situation, where to position it and what training the fire fighting teams should receive.

So depending on...

- Your work area
- Your type of business
- What equipment, material, products, etc you work with
- The quantity of material, stock, equipment, etc is on site
- The value of the buildings, equipment, stock, etc.
- The type of fire expected

different fire fighting equipment will be installed and made available.



PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

The most common fire fighting equipment used in industry is...

- A designed and permanently installed sprinkler system
- Portable fire extinguishers
- Fire hoses



As trained and competent fire fighters we may have to use a portable fire extinguisher or a water hose.

Water Hoses

Water hoses are used for cooling a fire and are extremely effective on Class A fires.

Water hoses enable us to spray water onto the fire and thereby cooling it and removing that important element required by fires, namely heat.

Some reasons why water is so widely used to fight fires are...

- Water is affordable
- Water is usually available
- Water is compatible with most other agents
- Water can be transported in large volumes
- Water may be used in many different ways
- Water is obtainable from surface and ground supplies

Water hoses are usually mounted on fire hose reels and are permanently connected to a water source.

When we need to use a fire hose we need to “un-reel” the hose from the storing reel and pull the hose to the desired location.

The water hose has a nozzle and a on / off tap.

Water hoses that are stored on a reel are usually marked by the following sign and symbol.



When the fire alarm is raised, we need to identify the source and type of fire and then identify the correct fire fighting method and equipment to use.

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 27	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

If we decide that the water hose is the correct equipment, then we need to identify the nearest water hose reel and start un-winding the hose from the reel.

Most fire hose reels are mounted and manufactured in such a way that all we need to do is pull the hose and the reel starts to rotate and the hose un-winds from it.

We need to be aware of where the hose is going to lie once it has been removed from the reel.

Remember that the fire hose is manufactured from rubber and may melt if it comes into direct contact with the fire.

We must be aware that the fire hose on a reel is limited in length and we may need to use a different hose at a different stage of the fire fighting operation if the fire is spreading.

In some work areas we may find a fire hydrant.

A fire hydrant is another water source to which we can attach a water hose and use it to fight the fire.

The symbol indicating the location of a fire hydrant is



Fire hydrants are usually installed in areas where a large fire is expected.

Fire hydrants enable a larger volume of water discharge and we can therefore attack a larger fire with this equipment.

The hoses that connect to the fire hydrant usually come in sections that are rolled up for easy and practical storage.

These hose sections can be connected via a quick and easy coupling and we are able to extend the length of the hose as required.

When working with fire hydrants and the relevant equipment we need to have some assistance.

We will need someone to be at the nozzle end of the fire hose and someone to be back at the fire hydrant to switch on the water supply when required.

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 28	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

NOTE
THE WATER PRESSURE FROM THE FIRE HYDRANT WATER HOSE IS GREAT
AND
CAN THROW THE FIRE FIGHTER AT THE NOZZLE OFF HIS / HER FEET

When working with a water hose...

- Do not use it on Class C fires as the combination of water and electricity are extremely dangerous
- Beware that the water does not cause the fire to spread
- Beware that you do not bump other flammable material or items into the fire when the hose is pulled around the fire area

Make sure that ...
The hose does not lie in the fire or in the path of the fire
As it may melt or burn
and render your fire fighting equipment useless

Fire Extinguishers

For smaller fire what are detected early a portable fire extinguisher is ideal.

We usually also find portable fire extinguishers mounted on vehicles and machines where the possibility of a fire starting exists.

Portable fire extinguishers are very common in the different work areas and although they come in different sizes, they are light enough for one person to handle.



PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

The symbol showing where fire extinguishers are located is

We will usually also find that the location of the fire extinguisher is painted in red and white diagonal lines.

The positioning of portable fire extinguishers should...

- Be evenly spaced over the work area floor space
- Not be more than 23 metres apart
- Be placed in clearly visible positions
- Near escape routes and emergency exits
- Well signed
- Easily accessible
- Not cause an obstruction in any way
- Be placed in a cabinet or under a covered area if outside
- Not be placed too close to the identified high risk area, but a little further away
- Not be placed too high for shorter employees



**IT MAY BE NECESSARY ...
TO TAKE THE PHYSICAL BUILD OF THE EMPLOYEES IN THAT AREA
INTO ACCOUNT
AND SMALLER LIGHTER FIRE EXTINGUISHERS MAY BE MORE
PRACTICAL**

**REMEMBER...
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS LOCATED IN CORROSIVE ATMOSPHERES
SHOULD BE INSPECTED MORE OFTEN**

Different Types of Portable Fire Extinguishers

We do get different types of portable fire extinguishers which are better suited for the different Class of fires we need to fight.

Dry Powder

Dry powder fire extinguishers are used for smothering a fire and are ideal for Class B type fires.

The dry powder fire extinguisher has no cooling properties.

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 30	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

Note that the dry powder used to extinguish a fire may get into delicate machinery and cause other damage.

Some of the dry powder compounds are sticky and will have to be scraped off any equipment where it was used.

Carbonic Acid Gas

Carbonic acid gas is capable of smothering, quenching and cooling.

One of the advantageous of carbonic acid gas is that it does not conduct electricity.

Carbonic acid will also not contaminate food stuffs.

Since it is a gas, the fire extinguisher is relatively light.

It should be noted that when using carbonic acid gas...

- There is a likely chance that the fire may re-ignite
- The wind factor must be taken into account

When operating a portable fire extinguisher...**PASS**

P – PULL THE SAFETY PIN
A – AIM AT THE BASE OF THE FIRE
S - SQUEEZE TO TEST
S – SQUEEZE AND SWEEP

Checking your fire fighting equipment

We all know that any equipment must be in good working order for us to be able to use it safely and effectively.

This is even more critical of emergency equipment such as fire fighting equipment which could be the difference between life and death.

When we need to use the equipment we must know it will function as specified and we need to have confidence in the equipment.

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 31	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

Companies usually have a schedule that has been determined by the health and safety officials as to when and how often all fire fighting equipment must be checked and re-certified safe and ready for use in an emergency.

If you look on the portable fire extinguishers you should see when last it was inspected and when it is due for re-inspection.

Action in Case of a Fire

Once the fire alarm has been raised all trained fire fighters should respond.

We first need to establish...

- Where the fire is
- How big is the fire
- What is the source of the fire
- What type or class of fire are we dealing with
- Do we have the correct fire fighting equipment
- Ensure someone is in charge of the evacuation of people not involved in the fire fighting efforts
- Has someone gone to call for professional fire fighting services if required

BEFORE COMMITTING TO FIGHT THE FIRE
ASSESS THE RISK TO YOURSELF AND THE OTHER FIRE FIGHTER

Once you are convinced it is safe enough for you and the other fire fighters to deal with this situation, you need to attack the fire.



NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 32	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

Attacking a fire

When attacking a fire...

- Keep upwind
- Isolate the power source
- Use fire extinguishers
- Water, sand or earth may be required to cool metal or tyres
- Keep the public away
- Ensure that you are able to retreat to safety should the fire become uncontrollable
- Do not allow the fire to block off your escape
- Start attacking the fire from a distance moving in closer as the fire dies down
- A crouching attitude should be adopted to protect yourself against heat and smoke
- When in the open, attack the fire from the windward side and move with the extinguisher to ensure the extinguisher reaches the whole fire area
- Always try to have another person with an extinguisher backing up as a safety precaution and, where necessary, a two-pronged attack should be made
- Make sure that the fire has been completely extinguished.

GROUP DISCUSSION



In groups, discuss the following issues.

Make your own notes on the procedures once you have discussed the topic and all agree.

1. If you see a fire starting in your work area, list what you are expected to do according to your company procedures?

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

2. Why must you check the wind direction when fighting a fire?

3. Why should we switch off the electricity main supply?

4. Why must we crouch and keep low when fighting a fire?

5. Why must you check that you can always escape the fire?

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

YOU MUST KNOW WHERE...

THE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS ARE

THE FIRE HOSES ARE

THE FIRE ALARMS ARE

Requesting Assistance

In certain fire fighting situations we are only able to contain a large fire with the equipment and training we have.

It may be necessary to request professional fire fighting assistance.

Once you have identified that the fire is not controllable by your self or the available fire team, you need to get someone to call the fire services.

When calling the fire services it is important that...

- You state your name and telephone number clearly
- Explain what is burning
- Give the address accurately and explain the nearest major roads or other landmarks
- Take the operators name and ask the operator to repeat the address you gave them
- Let the operator end the conversation. Do not hang up first, they may require more information
- Report back to the fire coordinator that the call has been made successfully
- Delegate the responsibility of going to wait for the fire services and meeting them at the security gate to someone competent, so that the fire services can be cleared through the security boom and directed to the fire area without delay

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 35	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

REMEMBER...

***WITH YOUR TRAINING AND FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT
YOU CAN ONLY FIGHT FIRES ON A CERTAIN SIZE
AND MAY NEED TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE
FROM THE PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES***

ENSURE THAT...

**THE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE WELL
DISPLAYED AND EVERYONE KNOWS
WHERE TO LOOK FOR THEM**

Retreating and handing over

Once the professional fire fighting teams arrive at the scene we need to hand over the scene to them and retreat, letting them take over and fight the fire with their professional teams and equipment.

When they arrive, do not just stop fighting the fire, but let your team continue for the time being.

As leader of the fire team, introduce yourself to the leader of the professional team and explain...

- What happened
- What you have done so far
- Where the fire is at its worst
- Where your team is
- Any trapped people
- And injured people
- Where flammable material or liquids are stored on the premises
- Etc.

NK SKILLS TRAINING DEVELOPMENT		
VERSION : 01	PAGE 36	LEARNER GUIDE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

Check with the professional fire fighters team leader whether your team is still required and if so where and what can your team do to assist.

If required, take instruction from the professional team leader and assist as required and directed.

If not required, check whether you may withdraw your team and let them continue.

Reporting and recording

As with everything we do, the task is not completed until the relevant documentation has been completed and handed in.

Each company will have their own reporting and recording procedures and policies, with the appropriate documentation to be completed.

Once the documentation has been completed, ensure that it is handed in to the correct officials so that the incident investigation team may commence with their fact finding investigations to determine what was the cause of the fire and what preventative measures need to be put in place to prevent a similar incident in future.

NOTE...

ALWAYS ENSURE THAT THE FIRE IS COMPLETELY EXTINGUISHED AS FIRES OFTEN RE-IGNITE

PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

5

Fire Fighters Attitude

MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this module the learner will be able to...

- ❑ **Explain why a fire fighter should have a positive attitude to his / her work**
- ❑ **Explain what is considered a positive and good attitude.**
- ❑ **Explain why a fire fighter must be a team player**
- ❑ **Explain why a fire fighter should be able to identify and solve problems**
- ❑ **Explain why a fire fighter should be able to communicate in the work place**



PERFORM BASIC FIRE FIGHTING		
NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

Fire Fighters Attitude in the Work Place

As a fire fighter you will be employed by a company and will have to abide by the company rules, regulations and your employment conditions.

As a responsible, trained, competent fire fighter you will always be observed and your work performance monitored.

These are all aspects that make a good fire fighter.

We must remember that there is no job (or very few) that requires you to work totally alone and in isolation.

The very nature of a fire fighters duties require him / her to work and communicate with others.

A FIRE FIGHTER MUST

BE A TEAM PLAYER

A FIRE FIGHTER MUST

BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE

A FIRE FIGHTER MUST

BE ABLE TO IDENTY AND SOLVE PROBLEMS

A FIRE FIGHTER MUST

HAVE THE CORRECT AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE

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NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4



Discuss the above aspects that contribute to good positive attitudes and why it is important in the work place.

REMEMBER

AS A PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTER YOU WILL NEED TO IMPLEMENT AND APPLY ALL YOU HAVE LEARNT IN THESE TRAINING SESSIONS...

NOT ONLY WHEN YOU ARE BEING ASSESSED

YOU ARE NOW READY TO GO AND PRACTICE WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT

REMEMBER ...

SAFETY IS YOUR PRIMARY CONCERN AND RESPONSIBILITY



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NQF LEVEL : 2	SAQA UNIT STANDARD ID – 12484	NQF CREDITS : 4

ASSESSMENT

Once all the course content has been successfully covered and your facilitator feels confident that you are ready to attempt the knowledge assessments, you will be prepared for the assessment and proceed with the knowledge assessments.

Once you have practiced all the relevant tasks and your facilitator feels confident that you are ready to attempt the performance assessment, you will be prepared for assessment and proceed with the performance assessments.

