

# Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association

## Saving Lives, Protecting Property

### Homeowner Extinguishes Fire Caused by Holiday Lights

WSAV.com, Savannah, GA, December 14, 2011

Holiday lights were the cause of an electrical fire that started in a Port Royal, GA home on December 14th. When the homeowner realized that a fire had started on the exterior of the house, he called 911, got everyone outside, and used a fire extinguisher to put out the fire. He then turned off the main breaker and waited for the fire department outside. Beaufort Fire Chief Sammy Negrón said that the homeowner's reaction to the fire "really helped protect his home and his family."

*"Portable extinguishers and extinguishing systems are vital aspects of a comprehensive fire safety strategy. Allowing for a tradeoff where extinguishers are not required throughout buildings if they are protected with other technologies ignores the importance of redundancy and does not recognize the value of portable extinguishers"*

- Alan Shuman, Former Georgia State Fire Marshal  
Past President, National Association of State Fire Marshals

### Driver Extinguishes School Bus Fire

NBC San Diego, San Diego, CA, Nov 28, 2011

A school bus carrying several students in wheelchairs caught fire on the morning of Nov 28th. The fire started in the rear wheel of the bus as it was driving near the northbound I-805 and I-15 freeways. The bus driver put out the fire with a portable fire extinguisher, and all the children were safely evacuated with no injuries.

*"A sound fire safety strategy has to include portable extinguishers. They can extinguish fires during the incipient stage before they are large enough to trigger a sprinkler or other suppression system. This helps to protect against property damage and the buildup of dangerous smoke."*

- Joe Pierce, Dallas Fire & Rescue Department  
Chair, Fire and Life Safety Section  
International Association of Fire Chiefs

### Restaurant employee prevents major damage with portable extinguisher

KEZI Channel 9 News, Eugene, OR, Nov. 8, 2011



Call fire department;  
Announce fire/alert  
others; Make sure  
everyone is safe.



Defend  
in place



Fire/smoke  
alarm sounds



Suppression  
system  
activates



Sprinkler  
system  
activates



Fire  
department  
responds

When the Eugene Fire Department responded to reports of a grease fire at Taylor's Bar and Grill, they arrived to find a decent amount of smoke but no sizeable flames. Investigators say that's because an employee managed to put the fire out with a fire extinguisher. Firefighters say if there hadn't been a fire extinguisher handy, the situation could have gotten a lot more complicated, especially with the lack of parking for fire trucks and the busy student dynamic at the time. "It could have spread into the attic area. We would have had it going from store to store," said Tim Bradley with the Eugene Fire Department.

### **Homeowner puts out A/C Fire with Extinguisher**

KGNB 1420 AM, New Braunfels, TX, Nov. 10, 2011

At around 8:20am on November 10th, family members in a Texas home noticed smoke and flames coming from their A/C unit. The family evacuated the house while one family member stayed behind to use a fire extinguisher on the flames. The New Braunfels Fire Department arrived at the home to find the fire already out, with minimal damage, thanks to the quick thinking of the family member. Damages were listed at around \$500 and no injuries were reported.



#### **Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association 101**

The Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association is the premier trade association representing leading brands, and spanning dozens of product categories related to fire protection. The Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association is comprised of four divisions represented by product categories: portable fire extinguishers, interior equipment, fire hose and pre-engineered suppression systems. These divisions work together in an effort to promote Balanced Fire Protection, Life Safety and initial response when disaster strikes. Members of the Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association have formed a subgroup, the Government Relations Committee (GRC), to address legislative and regulatory issues relating to portable fire extinguishers and pre-engineered systems. The GRC's main goals focus on helping to educate officials by advancing a balanced fire safety philosophy that reflects the need for both sprinklers and portable extinguishers. This newsletter is published periodically to communicate to key members of the fire services and code officials on the importance of balanced fire safety and the role that special application fire suppression systems and portable extinguishers play.