

# Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association

Saving Lives, Protecting Property

## Man uses extinguisher to put out fire in smoky basement

Lancaster Online (Lancaster County, PA)

April 17, 2014

Fire companies responded to a smoky basement fire in a West Earl Township home just before 9:00AM this past Thursday. A dispatcher said there was a fire in the home's basement, but the owner had quickly used a fire extinguisher to address the issue. The resident told the dispatcher that he thought he had put it out with the extinguisher, but that there was still smoke. Firefighters declared the incident as under control within about 10 minutes of arrival. The resident was checked at the scene by EMTs, but only for possible smoke inhalation.

*"Portable extinguishers and extinguishing systems are vitally important pieces of a comprehensive fire safety strategy. Studies have indicated that most will attempt to extinguish an incipient fire, and portable fire extinguishers should be their tool of choice."*

- Adolf Zubia, President  
Fire & Life Safety Section, IAFC

## Residents help save house from fire

Victorville Daily Press (Victorville, CA)

April 16, 2014

At 7:45AM this past Tuesday, San Bernardino County firefighters responded to a call of a house fire and were on scene in approximately five minutes. Upon arrival, fire



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

officials found smoke coming from the attic of a single-family home. They also found that both residents had evacuated safely and, along with help from a neighbor, used a fire extinguisher and garden hose to minimize damage before firefighters arrived. The blaze was extinguished and fallen debris was removed from the kitchen. The cause of the fire was discovered to have been an unattended container of scented wax that was heating on the stove and caught fire.

## **Neighbors help extinguish apartment fire**

**Times Leader (Wilkes-Barre, PA)**

April 13, 2014

This past Sunday, a resident noticed smoke coming out of a second floor window in her neighbor's apartment. She quickly returned with her boyfriend and a fire extinguisher, and watched as the boyfriend went into the apartment and put out the flames. No one was injured in the fire, and the Hanover Township Fire Department is still determining what caused the fire to start, which they believed to be accidental. Emergency officials responded to the fire at about 10:30AM on Sunday, and by 11:00AM the crews were doing a final check of the unit and packing up.

*"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, Retired Deputy Chief  
Dallas, Texas Fire Department

## **Brush fire flares up on Vitti Street**

**New Canaan Advertiser (New Canaan, CT)**

April 10, 2014

On Thursday, April 10, a brush fire broke out around 3:00PM on Vitti Street. Fire and police officials responded quickly, and

firefighters put out the blaze in short order. The owner of a car wash on the same street saw the fire as he drove by, and he quickly grabbed a fire extinguisher at his car wash. He used the extinguisher to keep flames from spreading to other streets. New Canaan firefighters then arrived and quickly put out the flames, which had engulfed part of the bushes next to a residence. No property was damaged and nobody was injured.



#### **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 Layered 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 layered 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 layered fire safety and the role that special application fire suppression systems and portable extinguishers play.