

SAFETY ALERT



Accidental Discharge of a Fire Extinguisher

Incident Details

A contractor was transporting tools and a 9kg dry powder fire extinguisher in a wheelbarrow from the work area to their vehicle. The unsecured fire extinguisher fell from the wheelbarrow, discharging its contents as it struck the ground.

Curtin staff members seated near the discharge attempted to remove themselves quickly from the area, resulting in one staff member falling and injuring their ankle.

The contractor cleaned up the dry powder residue immediately.

Investigation Findings:

- Transport of equipment and materials to work area was required daily due to limited access and availability of space for storage.
- Limited access and storage space not identified in risk assessment.
- The 9kg dry powder fire extinguisher was not secured prior to transport.

Key Messages

Risk Assessments shall include all hazards of the job including but not limited to:

- Access and egress to the work site;
- Transport and securing of equipment;
- Type and size of emergency equipment.

Who do you call with questions?

Health and Safety

08 9266 4900 | healthandsafety@curtin.edu.au



Date of Issue

02/02/2022