

Common Myth #19

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You can't discharge water and dry chemical simultaneously during a fire incident.

Description

This is absolutely wrong. We have always been taught that dry chemical and water don't mix. This is true if you are going to put them into the same container and store them for a while. This is not true if you are working on a fire.

Dry chemical does not have any cooling properties. On Class B fires it works on a principle of interrupting the chain reaction. We are not going to get into the specifics of how this works in this "Common Myth" but we will tell you how to use water and dry chemical together to have a profound effect on the fire and give you some information to use with training at your customer's site.

Water provides protection and cooling on any type of fire except Class D fires where it forms hydrogen gas and may create a steam explosion. If dry chemical is passed through a water stream, either full fog or a modified stream, it will not allow the fire to travel through the pattern, back to the fire fighters, and will act like it normally does on the fire. This is particularly useful when dealing with pressurized fires or fires involving lower auto-ignition temperatures.

Because of the moisture repelling properties of dry chemical, the dry chemical stream can pass through the water spray pattern to the fire and accomplish extinguishment while the water spray is still protecting the operators.

All of this means less heat, better cooling, faster extinguishment than if water was used alone and greater safety for the operator.

If you want to know how to prove this to your customers and train them in how to handle hose lines safely while using dry chemical, look for a future "Common Myth," or give us a call.