



## Fire Extinguishers



### What happened?

During a recent BDA audit, a Fire Safety Stick was presented as the only method of fire suppression on a drilling site, in place of a traditional Fire Extinguisher.

Under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO), Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 & Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and Fire and Rescue Services (NI) Order 2006, the *Responsible Person* must ensure:

- Adequate fire detection and suppression systems are in place.
- The fire safety equipment is *suitable*, *maintained*, and *certified* where required.
- Firefighting equipment is appropriate to the *type of fire risk*.



### What went wrong?

#### Procedure Causes

- The Responsible Person for the drilling contractor had not ensured that the fire safety equipment available to the drilling crew was *suitable* and crucially, *certified*.

### Outcome and Lessons Learnt



Traditional fire extinguishers are tested and certified under:

- BS EN 3 – Standard for portable fire extinguishers in the UK.
  - Requiring fire extinguishers to be CE marked.
  - Specification of performance, classification, colour coding, and design.
- BS 5306-8:2012 – Code of practice for the selection and positioning of portable fire extinguishers.
- BS 5306-3:2017 – Maintenance of portable fire extinguishers.

Fire Safety Sticks are not currently certified to BS EN 3. This lack of certification means they cannot be classified as a legal *replacement* for a traditional fire extinguisher in settings where extinguishers are a regulatory requirement, only as *supplementary* equipment. The contractor was notified of this so that appropriate fire safety equipment could be procured immediately.