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Badger Fire Protection  
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TECHNICAL BULLETIN  
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**Subject: Hospital Operating Room Fire Extinguishers**

Recent requests for specific hand portable fire extinguisher recommendations within hospital operating rooms (OR's) have again surfaced. Back in 1999, Badger consulted with several leading health care experts to help obtain accurate background information for conducting a proper hazard analysis on this particular application. Badger's extinguisher recommendation for hospital OR's was established after considering all of the various occupancy hazards typically associated within this application, which included reviewing actual operating room fire data and objectively evaluating all of the potential hand portable extinguishing agent and hardware options available.

Badger Fire Protection's recommendation of using either the model B5V or B10V Carbon Dioxide hand portable fire extinguishers for hospital operating rooms has been independently supported and echoed by many key safety representatives within the health care industry, including *the Hospital Fire Marshals Association* and ECRI.

The Hospital Fire Marshals Association (HFMA) headquartered in Philadelphia, is a national non-profit organization dedicated to supporting healthcare and educational facilities in reaching high safety standards.

ECRI is an internationally recognized independent and non-profit healthcare technology research organization founded in 1955. ECRI has investigated most of the serious surgical fires that have occurred within the United States over the past 30 years, as well as having consulted and written extensively upon this subject.

ECRI was recently quoted in a major health care industry publication supporting the same type of OR fire extinguisher recommendation as Badger stating ***"A CO2 extinguisher can extinguish small OR fires in cloth, plastic or paper as well as many burning liquid or electrically energized fires. CO2 extinguishers work in an oxygen enriched environment. Equally important, CO2 extinguishers don't leave a residue and won't harm the patient, staff or equipment."***

ECRI also specifically advises that they ***do not recommend*** the use of ***fire blankets*** for use on surgical fires involving patients. ECRI also considers portable fire extinguishers containing agents like ***water, dry chemicals*** or ***water mist*** inappropriate for such use in operating rooms.

Operating rooms are typically classified in NFPA 10 as either "Light" or "Ordinary" types of occupancy hazards requiring either a 5B:C or 10B:C fire rating. Depending on the extinguisher rating utilized, the maximum actual travel distance spacing for these extinguishers will be either 30 or 50 feet. Prior to installation, Badger recommends the local authority having jurisdiction be contacted to address any additional local fire extinguisher requirements, which might exist.

To obtain a copy of the ECRI operating room fire extinguisher recommendation recently published within the December 2003 edition of the health care industry publication ***"OR MANAGER"*** contact your Badger sales representative. For any specific questions regarding operating room applications, please feel free to Badger (434) 964-3200.