

Common Myth #28

Posted on March 1, 2013 by Amerex

Wheeled extinguishers are just for airports and refineries.

Description

Not True! Anywhere greater agent flow is needed (see “Myth” #9), greater range, vertical reach or where there is limited manpower, a wheeled unit is the best solution.

Places with High Rack Storage of either combustibles or flammable liquids require more reach than a hand portable can provide. Facilities that have bulk storage of flammable liquids or are transferring flammable liquids have a potential for a large spill – again the greater range and flexibility of a wheeled unit is needed. Plants with large overhead cranes may also need the greater reach of a wheeled unit.

NFPA 10 – 2010 edition states:

“5.3.2.1* Wheeled extinguishers shall be considered for hazard protection in areas in which a fire risk assessment has shown the following:

- (1) High hazard areas are present
- (2) Limited available personnel are present, thereby requiring an extinguisher that has the following features:
 - a. High agent flow rate
 - b. Increased agent stream
 - c. Increased agent capacity”

Facilities with limited manpower can use wheeled units to their advantage. The greater flow rate, longer range and increased discharge time help a single operator accomplish more than several operators with small hand portables.