

# Airport Fire Safety



Since airports are extremely important public buildings and mass transit areas, occupied by thousands of people at any point, fire and life safety are very critical. Combustible exterior cladding materials present an increase in fire hazards which result in fire incidents. Most death incidents are related to smoke exposure and toxicity rather than direct flame and heat exposure. Falling, burning debris can be a significant hazard and can cause downward fire spread.

An airport fire involving ground support equipment can have an immediate impact on the airline and airport operations. A fire can leave equipment non-operational, take an airplane out of service, and may endanger ground crew, flight crew, and passengers. If a fire does occur in a piece of ground support equipment, an operator or ground support crew has a couple of options. They can try to extinguish the fire with a handheld or wheeled fire extinguisher, and/or contact the aircraft rescue and firefighting team.

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