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**From:** N11 - Marchment, Brian <BrianMarchment@lancsfirerescue.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 27 June 2018 09:37  
**To:** Curtis, Jennifer  
**Cc:** N12 - Monkhouse, Mark  
**Subject:** RE: Fire Extinguishers in Licensed Vehicles

Hello Jen,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding provision of portable fire extinguishers for use with licenced taxis. VOSA have provided the guidance for requirement in respect of vehicles carrying more than 8 occupants. Further to this there is no specific guidance for smaller vehicles that I know of. On a practical level foam and dry powder offer their own individual benefits;

Dry powder

- Very effective in providing quick knock-down of a fire in the initial stages.
- Effective in tackling fire in engine compartments.
- Does not provide any cooling effect so fire can re-ignite from hot components.
- Can cause respiratory problems (particularly in confined spaces).

Foam

- Effective on fuel based fires.
- Has a limited cooling effect on a fire.
- Specialised foams will be able to form a film over the fuel / components.
- Can be more difficult to apply effectively.

Portable extinguishers are limited in their capability to extinguish vehicle fires and are only really effective in the very earliest stages of fire development.

The choice of extinguisher would be particular to the situation, Fire Service vehicles carry dry powder extinguishers predominantly.

Regards  
Brian Marchment  
Northern Area Fire Safety  
Fire Safety Inspector  
01524 230104 / 07501929293

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**From:** N12 - Monkhouse, Mark  
**Sent:** 26 June 2018 10:48  
**To:** N11 - Marchment, Brian  
**Subject:** FW: Fire Extinguishers in Licensed Vehicles  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Curtis, Jennifer [mailto:jcurtis@lancaster.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 26 June 2018 10:47  
**To:** N12 - Monkhouse, Mark  
**Subject:** Fire Extinguishers in Licensed Vehicles  
**Importance:** High

Hi Mark,

We are currently reviewing the requirement for taxi drivers to carry a powder fire extinguisher in licensed vehicles, during a recent vehicle inspection operation VOSA advised that it should be foam; as is their requirement for public service vehicle (over 8 seats).

What would you advise from a fire service perspective? Is foam safer than powder in confined spaces? Is there a real argument to stipulate one type over another?

Your advice may form part discussions with members of a committee and subsequent reports which may be public.

Thanks for your help,

Jen

**Jennifer Curtis**  
**Principal Licensing Officer**  
**Lancaster City Council**  
**Health and Housing**  
**01524 582732**  
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