

The Use of Handheld Fire Extinguishers in Hidden Area Fire Incidents

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In this presentation, two case histories concerning the use of handheld fire extinguisher during in-flight events will be evaluated. These events have taken place since the recommendations were made by the National Transportation Safety Board as a result of the events of the in-flight fire onboard a Delta MD-80. These recommendations highlighted the need for proper training in the use of handheld fire extinguishers during in-flight fire events. However, as one of the case studies will show, cabin crews are still having difficulties addressing hidden fires. The areas of focus in this presentation will include 1) each crew's response to the fire; 2) the use of other extinguishing materials in addition to halon; 3) the use of appropriate protective equipment; and 4) lessons learned from each incident.

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