

STERNO SAFETY TRAINING

City College of New York
Public Safety / Fire Safety Director



Sterno is:

- Solid alcohol fuel used to heat food.
 - Produces an open flame.
- Can cause fire if used improperly.

Sterno must be handled safely at all times.

Sterno is **ONLY** allowed in approved Public Assembly areas.

Examples:

- Cafeteria
- Faculty Dining Room
- Multipurpose Room
- Green Room
- Atrium
- Approved meeting rooms

Sterno is **NOT** allowed in:

- Offices
- Classrooms
- Hallways
- Non-approved areas



Sterno must be attended at all times



CCNY policy requires:

- Sterno must be watched at all times.
- A trained person must be present.
- Never leave Sterno unattended.

If event is not catered:

Public Safety must be notified.

Proper Sterno setup



Requires Sterno to be placed:

In approved metal holder
Inside metal tray with water
On non-combustible surface

This prevents fire and protects tables

A fire extinguisher must be:

ABC extinguisher OR Type K extinguisher

Located within 10 feet of Sterno

Staff must know where extinguisher is located.



Keep Sterno away from combustible materials



Keep Sterno away from:

- Paper
- Plastic
- Napkins
- Decorations
- Signs
- Tablecloths (paper or plastic)

Minimum safe distance: 3 feet

Table Setup and Materials



Table Coverings

- Only flame-resistant cloth table covers are permitted.
- Paper or plastic table coverings are prohibited when Sterno fuel is used.
- All table decorations must be flame-resistant.

Lighting Sterno safely

How to Safely Open A Sterno® Pop Top Can

Use a large spoon, slip it under the edge of the lid & pop it open!



Follow these steps:

1. Place Sterno in holder first
2. Use long lighter or long match
3. Keep hands away from flame
4. Make sure Sterno is stable

Never light Sterno while holding it.

Extinguishing Sterno



To extinguish Sterno:

- Use snuffer lid
- Do NOT use water
- Do NOT blow on flame



After event:

- Extinguish Sterno
- Close lid
- Remove Sterno from area

Notify Public Safety



Public Safety must be notified when Sterno is used.

Public Safety may inspect the setup to ensure safety.

If fire occurs:

1. Stay calm
2. Use fire extinguisher if trained
3. Notify Public Safety immediately
4. Activate fire alarm if needed
5. Call 911 if necessary











Staff responsibilities



Event staff must:

- Monitor Sterno at all times
- Ensure fire extinguisher is present
- Keep area safe
- Report unsafe conditions

Classification of Fires and Extinguishers

Class of Fire	Type of Fire	Type of Extinguisher	Extinguisher Identification	Symbol
A	Ordinary combustibles: wood, paper, rubber, fabrics, and many plastics	Water, Dry Powder, Halon		
B	Flammable Liquids and Gases: gasoline, oils, paint, lacquer, and tar	Carbon Dioxide, Dry Powder, Halon		
C	Fires involving Live Electrical Equipment	Carbon Dioxide, Dry Powder, Halon		
D	Combustible Metals or Combustible Metal Alloys	Special Agents		No Picture Symbol 
K	Fires in Cooking Appliances that involve Combustible Cooking Media: Vegetable or Animal Oils and Fats			

Fire Extinguisher Instructions

Instructions



P
PULL the pin
to unlock the
operating lever



A
AIM the fire
extinguisher
at the base
of the fire



S
SQUEEZE and
hold the trigger
to discharge
the powder
or agent



S
SWEEP from
side to side
at the base
of the fire

Quick safety checklist

Before Event

- ✓ Sterno in metal holder
- ✓ Sterno in water tray
- ✓ Fire extinguisher present
- ✓ No combustibles nearby
- ✓ Sterno attended

After Event

- ✓ Sterno extinguished
- ✓ Lid closed
- ✓ Sterno removed
- ✓ Area safe



THANK YOU