

## Halon

Halon is the chemical name for a modified hydrocarbon which has, instead of the hydrogen atom of the original substance, one or more of the halogens, fluorine, chlorine and bromine, but must have at least one bromine atom.

Halon (especially halon 1301 and 1211) was used in fire extinguishing systems in the 20th Century in Europe and North America because, even in very small concentrations, halon is an effective extinguishing agent.

Since halon is very damaging to the ozone layer, halon-based fire extinguishing systems are banned in most countries, or may only be used where they cannot be replaced by other extinguishing agents (e.g. in aeroplanes). Existing extinguishing systems and/or portable extinguishers may not be refilled after use, but must be replaced by alternative extinguishing apparatus.

