an intumescent material layer substantially covering ~~a at least one~~ surface of the flexible sheet, and a cargo netting material configured to prevent objects from shifting on a pallet, wherein the flexible sheet comprises at least one of fire retardant fabric, fiberglass cloth, e-glass cloth, and s-glass cloth.

[010] In another aspect, a method for containing and/or suppressing a fire associated with at least one item located on a ~~base structure~~ pallet for storing or transporting the item, may include placing a flexible barrier over the at least one item. The flexible barrier may include a flexible sheet and an intumescent material layer substantially covering a surface of the flexible sheet, such that a fire associated with the at least one item is substantially contained under the flexible barrier, wherein placing the flexible barrier over the at least one item occurs before a fire associated with the at least one item starts.

[010a] In another aspect, there is provided a device for containing and/or suppressing a fire, the device comprising: a flexible barrier configured to at least substantially cover at least one item located on a base structure, wherein the flexible barrier comprises a flexible sheet, and an intumescent material layer substantially covering a surface of the flexible sheet; and a tube operably associated with the flexible barrier, the tube being configured to permit fire extinguishing agent to be provided under the flexible barrier.

[010b] In another aspect, there is provided a freight comprising: a pallet configured to be carried via a vehicle; at least one object located on the pallet; and a device for containing and/or suppressing a fire associated with the at least one object, the device comprising a flexible barrier at least substantially covering the at least one object located on the pallet, wherein the flexible barrier comprises a flexible sheet, and an intumescent material layer substantially covering a surface of the flexible sheet.

[011] Aside from the structural and procedural arrangements set forth above, the invention could include a number of other arrangements such as those explained hereinafter. It is to be understood that both the foregoing description and the following description are exemplary only.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[012] The accompanying drawings are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification. The drawings illustrate exemplary embodiments and, together with the description, serve to explain some principles of the invention. In the drawings,

[013] Fig. 1 is a schematic perspective view including an exemplary embodiment of a device for containing and/or suppressing a fire;

[014] Fig. 2 is a schematic partial cross-section view of an exemplary embodiment of a flexible barrier;

[015] Fig. 3 is a schematic perspective view including another exemplary embodiment of a device for containing and/or suppressing a fire;

[016] Fig. 4 is a schematic perspective view of an exemplary embodiment of a flexible barrier;

[017] Fig. 5A is a section view taken along line A-A of Fig. 4;

[018] Fig. 5B is a section view taken along line B-B of Fig. 4; and

[019] Fig. 5C is a section view taken along line C-C of Fig. 4.

DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

[020] Reference will now be made in detail to a few exemplary embodiments of the invention. Wherever possible, the same reference numbers are used in the drawings and the description to refer to the same or like parts.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for containing and/or suppressing a fire, the device comprising:

a flexible barrier configured to at least substantially cover at least one item located on a base structure,

wherein the flexible barrier comprises

a flexible sheet, and

an intumescent material layer substantially covering a surface of the flexible sheet.

2. The device of claim 1, further comprising a second intumescent layer substantially covering a second surface of the flexible sheet.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the flexible sheet comprises at least one of treated fabric and treated cloth.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein the flexible sheet comprises at least one of fire retardant fabric, fiberglass cloth, e-glass cloth, and s-glass cloth.

5. The device of claim 1, further comprising at least one cord configured to tighten the flexible barrier around the at least one item adjacent to the base structure.

6. The device of claim 1, further comprising a netting material, the netting material being part of an integral single piece defining the flexible barrier.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the flexible barrier is formed from a plurality of sections of the flexible sheet.

8. The device of claim 1, further comprising a tube operably associated with the flexible barrier, the tube being configured to permit fire extinguishing agent to be provided under the flexible barrier.

9. A method for containing and/or suppressing a fire associated with at least one item located on a base structure, the method comprising:

placing a flexible barrier over the at least one item, the flexible barrier comprising a flexible sheet and an intumescent material layer substantially covering a surface of the flexible sheet.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising tightening the flexible barrier around a base of the at least one item via a cord.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the flexible barrier further comprises a second intumescent material layer substantially covering a second surface of the flexible sheet.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for containing and/or suppressing a fire, the device comprising:

a flexible barrier configured to at least substantially cover at least one item located on a base structure,

wherein the flexible barrier comprises

a flexible sheet,

an intumescent material layer substantially covering a surface of the flexible sheet, and

a cargo netting material configured to prevent objects from shifting on a pallet,

wherein the flexible sheet comprises at least one of fire retardant fabric, fiberglass cloth, e-glass cloth, and s-glass cloth.

2. The device of claim 1, further comprising a second intumescent layer substantially covering a second surface of the flexible sheet.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the flexible sheet comprises at least one of treated fabric and treated cloth.

4. The device of claim 1, further comprising at least one cord configured to tighten the flexible barrier around the at least one item adjacent to the base structure.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the flexible barrier is formed from a plurality of sections of the flexible sheet.

6. The device of claim 1, further comprising a tube operably associated with the flexible barrier, the tube being configured to permit fire extinguishing agent to be provided under the flexible barrier.

7. A method for containing and/or suppressing a fire associated with at least one item located on a pallet for storing or transporting the item, the method comprising:

placing a flexible barrier over the at least one item, the flexible barrier comprising a flexible sheet and an intumescent material layer substantially covering a surface of the flexible sheet, such that a fire associated with the at least one item is substantially contained under the flexible barrier,

wherein placing the flexible barrier over the at least one item occurs before a fire associated with the at least one item starts.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising tightening the flexible barrier around a base of the at least one item via a cord.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the flexible barrier further comprises a second intumescent material layer substantially covering a second surface of the flexible sheet.

10. A device for containing and/or suppressing a fire, the device comprising:

a flexible barrier configured to at least substantially cover at least one item located on a base structure,

wherein the flexible barrier comprises

a flexible sheet, and

an intumescent material layer substantially covering a surface of the flexible sheet; and

a tube operably associated with the flexible barrier, the tube being configured to permit fire extinguishing agent to be provided under the flexible barrier.

11. Freight comprising:

a pallet configured to be carried via a vehicle;

at least one object located on the pallet; and

a device for containing and/or suppressing a fire associated with the at least one object, the device comprising

a flexible barrier at least substantially covering the at least one object located on the pallet,

wherein the flexible barrier comprises

a flexible sheet, and

an intumescent material layer substantially covering a surface of the flexible sheet.

12. The freight of claim 11, wherein the pallet is configured to be carried via aircraft.

13. The device of claim 1, wherein the cargo netting material is part of an integral single piece defining the flexible barrier.