

SUBJECT: EXTINGUISHER MAINTENANCE
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SECTION: 202.14
PAGE(S): 3

PURPOSE

To provide proper care and maintenance of the portable fire extinguishers used by the Fire Department.

POLICY

- A. Portable fire extinguishers shall be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, N.F.P.A. guidelines and Departmental guidelines.
- B. Portable fire extinguishers shall be hydrostatically tested in accordance with those guidelines contained within this policy.
- C. Portable fire extinguishers shall be thoroughly inspected every week.
- D. Portable fire extinguishers of the water pressure type and the dry chemical type which are carried on fire apparatus and/or used in extinguisher demonstrations shall be serviced by Fire Department personnel or contractor.
- E. Fire extinguishers located within the Fire Station, for the purpose of Station protection, shall be serviced by an approved private contract agency.
- F. CO2 extinguishers shall be sent out for service to an approved private contract agency.

TESTING

- A. Portable fire extinguishers shall be hydrostatically tested in accordance with the following time table:
 - 1. CO2 Extinguishers - every five (5) years.
 - 2. Dry Chemical extinguishers - every five (5) years.
 - 3. Water Pressure extinguishers - every five (5) years.

- B. Hydrostatic testing of extinguishers shall be completed by an approved outside agency.
- C. The Maintenance Officer shall make necessary arrangements for hydrostatic testing of extinguishers.

WATER PRESSURE EXTINGUISHERS

- A. Water pressure type extinguishers shall be checked daily for pressure.
- B. Water pressure extinguishers shall be refilled after each use.
- C. When refilling water pressure extinguishers, the following guidelines apply:
 - 1. Fill with approximately 2 1/2 gallons of water-Foam may be added to enhance operations: Add 18 oz of AFFF for class B foam or 1 oz of class A foam.
 - 2. Check valve mechanism, hose and seals.
 - 3. Pressurize the extinguisher, using compressed air, to the specific pressure indicated on the gage.
 - 4. Replace pin and attach a new plastic band.
 - 5. Check for leaking air pressure.

DRY CHEMICAL EXTINGUISHERS

- A. Dry chemical type extinguishers shall be inspected weekly, turned upside down and shaken vigorously to prevent caking and packing.
- B. Dry chemical type extinguishers should be dumped every five (5) years and visually inspected.
- C. The hoses on dry chemical extinguishers shall be moved and checked for obstruction every three months.
- D. Dry chemical extinguishers shall be refilled after each use.
- E. Extinguishers shall be refilled with the EXACT chemical agent that is specified for the extinguisher in question.

CARBON DIOXIDE (CO2) EXTINGUISHERS

- A. Carbon dioxide extinguishers shall be recharged after every use, or whenever the weight of the cylinder indicates that the extinguisher is less than 75% charged.
- B. CO2 extinguishers shall be carefully inspected weekly to check for weak hose, weight loss or any evidence of wear.
- C. Refilling of CO2 extinguishers shall be completed by an approved outside agency.
- D. The Maintenance Officer or Shift Supervisor shall arrange for refilling of CO2 Extinguishers.

RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Overall responsibility for the management of portable fire extinguisher testing and maintenance shall rest with the Maintenance Officer.
- B. Shift Supervisors shall insure that proper care and procedures are utilized during the maintenance and use of portable fire extinguishers.
- C. Fire Department members shall utilize the proper procedures and provide proper care when maintaining and utilizing portable fire extinguishers.