

## DuPage County Environmental, Safety, Health & Property Loss Control Program Fire Extinguisher Inspection & Maintenance

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**Purpose:** To assure fire extinguishers are proper for the hazard protected and ready for use.

**Policy:** Fire Extinguishers shall be selected for the hazard, properly mounted, locations adequately marked so they can be visible from all areas of the room, undergo documented monthly staff inspections and annual maintenance inspections by a licensed vendor. FE;s mounted outside shall be kept in appropriate red cabinets having drainage. Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), Dry Chemical or water fire extinguishers shall not be installed in the Immediate vicinity of nor used for the protection of delicate electronic equipment.

### **Definitions:**

#### **Inspection:**

An inspection is a “quick check” to give reasonable assurance that a fire extinguisher is available, fully charged and operable. The value of an inspection lies in the frequency, regularity, and thoroughness with which it is conducted. The frequency will vary from hourly to monthly, based on the needs of the situation. Inspections should always be conducted when extinguishers are initially placed in service and documented thereafter at 30-day intervals.

#### **Maintenance:**

Fire extinguishers should be maintained at regular intervals (at least once a year), or when specifically indicated by an inspection. Maintenance is a “thorough check” of the extinguisher. It is intended to give maximum assurance that an extinguisher will operate effectively and safely. It includes a thorough examination and any necessary repair, recharging or replacement. It will normally reveal the need for hydrostatic testing of an extinguisher.

1. **General Requirements:** Fire Extinguishers will be selected and located per National Fire Protection Standard 10 Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers. (Exhibit 1 lists the most common Classifications).
2. **Monthly Inspections** documented on FE Tag by staff will include the following:
  - ✓ For the presence of portable extinguishers, and determine that they are located in conspicuous and readily available locations immediately available for use, and not obstructed or obscured from view
  - ✓ If equipped; make sure the pressure dial reads in the green or “charged” area. It should also be clear and readable
  - ✓ That the pull pin is securely fastened within the handle and held in place by the tamper seal.
  - ✓ For visible dents, cracks or rusting on the extinguisher body
  - ✓ That the hose is not cracked or split
  - ✓ The nozzle is facing down
  - ✓ For FE’s with no gauge they will need to be weighed. The weight full is stamped on their neck. Easiest way is to use a fish scale for those 5lbs to 20 lbs and their pin had not been pulled + /- 2 lbs is OK. For those weighing more than 20 lbs + / - 5lbs is OK. Otherwise call vendor for servicing.
  - ✓ For Dry Chemical FE’s slowly turn them upside down and back to loosen the powder and prevent it from compacting inside the FE
  - ✓ Make sure the operating instructions are legible and facing forward

**Reference:** NFPA 10-Current Standard & OSHA 1910.157  
Exhibit 1

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### Types of Fire Extinguishers



Class A extinguishers put out fires in ordinary combustible materials such as cloth, wood, rubber, paper, and many plastics.



Class B extinguishers are used on fires involving flammable liquids, such as grease, gasoline, oil, and oil-based paints.



Class C extinguishers are suitable for use on fires involving appliances, tools, or other equipment that is electrically energized or plugged in.



Class D extinguishers are designed for use on flammable metals and are often specific for the type of metal in question. These are typically found only in factories working with these metals.



Class K fire extinguishers are intended for use on fires that involve vegetable oils, animal oils, or fats in cooking appliances. These extinguishers are generally found in commercial kitchens, such as those found in restaurants, cafeterias, and caterers. Class K extinguishers are now finding their way into the residential market for use in kitchens.



There are also multi-purpose fire extinguishers - such as those labeled "B-C" or "A-B-C" - that can be used on two or more of the above type fires.