

Basic Maintenance/Examination Requirements for Portable Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers need to:

...be conspicuously located, readably accessible and immediately available in the event of a fire.

...be in plain sight not obstructed or obscured from view. In locations where visual obstructions cannot be completely avoided, ensure there are means to indicate the extinguisher location.

... be an approved Coast Guard/UL extinguisher. This can be verified by checking the attached label plate.

...be secured in a U/L approved bracket or suitably secured to prevent chaffing or dismounting. A non-U/L bracket must be designed and function the same as a U/L approved bracket and professionally manufactured.

...have a tamper seal which is properly attached to the operating mechanism pull pin or locking device.

...have been inspected annually by a qualified person. This can be verified by checking the attached inspection tag.

...be in serviceable condition by checking the cylinder for corrosion, dents or any other type of physical damage. Also, examine the discharge hose and horn/nozzle for damage and ensure inside the horn/nozzle is clear of obstructions.

...be hydrostatically tested. 5 year hydrostatic tests intervals for CO₂ cylinders and stainless steel shell dry chemical extinguishers. 12 year hydrostatic tests intervals for mild steel, brazed brass and aluminum shell dry chemical extinguishers.

Note: Dry chemical extinguishers have a pressure gauge which is very susceptible to damage. Check to ensure the pressure gauge is in good condition and showing the proper pressure.