



# Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

**TOPIC:** Portable Fire Extinguishers - Inspection, Maintenance, and Testing

**TIME FRAME:** 30 Minutes

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:**

**BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:**

*Condition:* A written quiz

*Behavior:* The student will list and describe proper inspection, maintenance, and testing techniques for portable fire extinguishers.

*Standard:* With a minimum of 70% accuracy

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Various types of fire extinguishers
- Appropriate visual aids
- Audio visual equipment

**REFERENCES:**

- IFSTA, Essentials of Fire Fighting, 2nd Edition, Chapter 2

**PREPARATION:** Portable fire extinguishers are a valuable tool in the fire service. They are used most effectively on incipient phase fires. Like other fire fighting equipment they need to be subjected to regular inspection, maintenance, and testing schedules.



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PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p><b>I. INSPECTION OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS</b></p> <p>A. Assure that Extinguisher Is In It's Proper Place</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Clearly identified</li><li>2. Clearly visible</li><li>3. Easily accessible</li><li>4. Securely mounted</li><li>5. Operating instructions visible</li></ol> <p>B. Check Extinguisher Components to Assure Proper Working Order</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Locking pin<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Unbroken</li><li>b. In place</li></ol></li><li>2. Shell<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Corrosion</li><li>b. Dents</li><li>c. Missing parts</li></ol></li><li>3. Manufacturers label</li></ol>	<p>Show properly mounted extinguishers if available</p> <p>Show locking pin on extinguisher</p> <p>How can the shell of an extinguisher become damaged?</p>





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PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<p style="text-align: center;">a. Intact</p> <p><b>II. MAINTENANCE</b></p> <p>A. Purpose and procedure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Proper maintenance program<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Helps ensure proper operation of the fire extinguisher</li><li>b. Reduces the risk of harm to the operator</li></ol></li><li>2. Procedure includes<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Visual inspection of all components</li><li>b. Repairing as appropriate</li><li>c. Forwarding to proper facility for repairs beyond your level of training</li></ol></li></ol> <p>B. Maintenance Intervals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Annually</li><li>2. After each use</li><li>3. When there is evidence of damage or tampering</li><li>4. When exposed to abnormal conditions - heat, cold or corrosive environment</li></ol> <p><b>III. TESTING</b></p> <p>A. Hydrostatic Testing Varies by Type and Composition</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Stored pressure - 5 years</li></ol>	<p>What does the inspection band indicate</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. AFFF - 5 years</li><li>3. Dry chemical (stainless steel) - 5 years</li><li>4. CO2 - 5 years</li><li>5. Halon - 12 years</li><li>6. Mild steel extinguishers containing dry chemical or powder - 12 years</li></ul> <p>B. Check Manufacturers Documentation Received with the Portable Fire Extinguisher if in Doubt as to Hydrostatic Testing Interval</p>	



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## **SUMMARY:**

A good program of maintaining fire extinguishers coupled with proper inspection and testing are required to assure that the portable fire extinguisher will operate reliably when you need it.

## **EVALUATION:**

A written quiz.

## **ASSIGNMENT:**

To be determined by instructor(s).