

Portable Extinguisher Maintenance

Inspection, Testing and Maintenance

(Division B, Subsection 6.2.7. Ontario Fire Code)

- 6.2.7.1.(1) Maintenance and testing of portable extinguishers shall be in conformance with NFPA 10, "Portable Fire Extinguishers".
- 6.2.7.2. Portable extinguishers shall be inspected monthly.
- 6.2.7.3. Portable extinguishers having defects shall be repaired or recharged where necessary to ensure the extinguishers will operate effectively and safely.
- 6.2.7.4.(1) Each portable extinguisher shall have a tag securely attached to it showing the maintenance or recharge date, the servicing agency and the signature of the person who performed the service.
- 6.2.7.4.(2) Sentence (1) does not apply where other approved (by the Fire Chief) records are maintained that show the maintenance or recharge date, the servicing agency and the signature of the person who performed the service.
- 6.2.7.5. A permanent record containing the maintenance date, the examiner's name and a description of any maintenance work or hydrostatic testing carried out shall be prepared and maintained for each portable extinguisher.
- 6.2.7.6. Portable extinguishers shall be replaced and recharged after use in conformance with instructions given on the extinguisher nameplate.
- 6.2.7.7. Extinguisher shells, cartridges or cylinders that show leakage or permanent distortion in excess of specified limits or that rupture shall be removed from service.
- 6.2.7.8. Hydrostatic pressure tests shall be conducted at the original test pressure as stated on the nameplate.

- 6.2.7.9.(1) Where a portable extinguisher is tested, a label shall be fixed to the extinguisher after testing that indicates the month and year the hydrostatic pressure test was performed, the test pressure used and the name of the person or agency performing the test.
- 6.2.7.9.(2) Sentence (1) does not apply where a permanent record of the test is kept and is available to the fire department.

Monthly Inspections (NFPA 10, 2002 Edition)

- 6.2.1 Frequency. Fire extinguishers shall be inspected when initially placed in service and thereafter at approximately 30 day intervals. Fire extinguishers shall be inspected, manually or by electronic monitoring, at more frequent intervals when circumstances require.
- 6.2.2 Procedures. Periodic inspection of fire extinguishers shall include a check of at least the following items:
1. Location in designated place
 2. No obstruction to access or visibility
 3. Operating instructions on nameplate legible and facing outward
 4. Safety seals and tamper indicators not broken or missing
 5. Fullness determined by weighing or "hefting" (no gauge available)
 6. Examination for obvious physical damage, corrosion, leakage or clogged nozzle
 7. Pressure gauge reading or indicator in the operable range or position
 8. Condition of tires, wheels, carriage, hose and nozzle checked (for wheeled units)
 9. HMIS label in place

Annual Inspections (NFPA 10, 2002 Edition)

- 6.3.1 Frequency. Fire extinguishers shall be subjected to maintenance (by a qualified technician) at intervals of not more than 1 year, at the time of hydrostatic test, or when specifically indicated by an inspection or electronic notification.

Hydrostatic Testing (NFPA 10, 2002 Edition)

- 7.1.1 This standard requires hydrostatic testing of pressure vessels used as fire extinguishers and specified components of fire extinguishers.
- 7.1.2 Hydrostatic testing shall be performed by persons trained in pressure testing procedures and safeguards who have suitable testing equipment, facilities and appropriate servicing manual(s) available.
- 7.2 Frequency. At intervals not exceeding those specified in Table 7.2, fire extinguishers shall be hydrostatically retested. The hydrostatic retest shall be conducted within the calendar year of the specified test interval. In no case shall an extinguisher be recharged if it is beyond its specified retest date.

Table 7.2 Hydrostatic Test Interval for Extinguishers

Extinguisher Type	Test Interval (Years)
Stored-pressure water, loaded stream, and/or antifreeze	5
Wetting agent	5
AFFF (aqueous film-forming foam)	5
FFFP (film-forming fluoroprotein foam)	5
Dry chemical with stainless steel shells	5
Carbon dioxide	5
Wet chemical	5
Dry chemical, stored-pressure, with mild steel shells, brazed brass shells, or aluminum shells	12
Dry chemical, cartridge or cylinder-operated, with mild steel shells	12
Halogenated agents	12
Dry powder, stored-pressure, cartridge or cylinder-operated, with mild steel shells	12

Note: Stored-pressure water extinguishers with fiberglass shells (pre-1976) are prohibited from hydrostatic testing due to manufacturer's recall.