



H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 28-22

Date: August 25th, 2022

Fire Extinguisher Inspections

In our industry, fire extinguishers have become one of the most important tools to keep personnel and facilities safe when there is the potential for fire during any task. To ensure that they will work as intended, proper inspection must take place at regular intervals.

Annual fire extinguisher inspections are performed by a third party to check the condition of the unit and includes both fire extinguisher maintenance and testing. According to the Fire Protection for portable fire extinguishers standards of OSHA, we are responsible for inspection, maintenance, and testing of all available portable fire extinguishers in the workplace (1910.157(e)(1)). Additionally, monthly visual inspections of the fire extinguishers are also required and must be documented.

Importance of Inspection Tags

Every fire extinguisher must have the annual inspection tag. This shows who/when the extinguisher was inspected. Additionally, all of our fire extinguishers in the field should have an additional tag with each month of the year on it. This is confirm that the unit has been inspected during this month as the regulation requires. Each fire extinguisher must be punched when the monthly inspection is performed. Lastly, LLCF-027-Fire Extinguisher Inspection and Maintenance Log (attached) should be completed and filed. This is the only way we can confirm that the inspection has actually taken place. If the fire extinguisher is sent in for any reason, the inspection form should accompany the unit.

Note: We have been receiving fire extinguishers without monthly punches. Please make sure that this is being taken care of. Again, the inspection log should also be completed at this time. If you should have any questions regarding this process, please contact the HSE department.



Inspecting the Fire Extinguisher

Examine the physical state

- Pick up the fire extinguisher to closely check for labeling, overall condition and physical defects:
- Look for the fire extinguisher's serial number, and check if the fire extinguisher label is readable.
- Check if the cylinder and other external metal parts are free of corrosion, dents, and other signs of damage.
- Check the connection between the hose and cylinder is secure.
- Inspect if there are cracks in the hose or leak in the nozzle.
- Check if the locking pin goes through the holes of discharge lever and handle, and if the pin is secured well by the seal. The pin locks the discharge lever and prevents accidental discharge.

Check the pressure gauge

- Examine where the gauge needle is. A needle within the green zone is good. A needle in the left red zone means that the fire extinguisher is undercharged and warrants a recharge, while a needle in the right red zone signals a danger of being overcharged.

Look for the inspection tag

- Note if an inspection tag is available. The tag should indicate that a fire extinguisher is regularly inspected.

Report all incidents immediately to the GIS Hotline 1-855-543-5163.

SAFETY ALERT