

hand In larger plants, especially trained men can test and refill extinguishers on a full-time basis In other plants, the maintenance service can be under contract with a reliable service organization or the manufacturer's representative

Generally, it is desirable to seal hand extinguishers or to install them in cabinets to discourage tampering and to facilitate inspection *However, extinguishers should not be locked in cabinets nor stored in any way that would prevent immediate use in an emergency*

One of the most important tasks involved in keeping fire extinguishers in top condition is periodic hydrostatic pressure testing, a

mandatory requirement set forth in NFPA Standards No 10 and 10A The occasional reports of injuries and fatalities, due to extinguishers rupturing during operation, should be proof enough of the importance of this requirement

Whether the testing is done by an outside agency or privately, there should be no mass removal of extinguishers from an occupancy A testing program should be established so only a few scattered units are removed at one time They should be tested and returned to service promptly Temporary replacement units or additional protection may be needed when extinguishers are being removed for testing

References

- American Insurance Association, 85 John St., New York City 10038
Fire Extinguishing Appliances Pamphlet Nos 10-19
Fire Extinguishing Auxiliaries Pamphlet Nos 20-27
Special Interest Bulletins
- American Mutual Insurance Alliance, 20 N Wacker Dr., Chicago, Ill 60606
Judging the Fire Risk
Simplified Water Supply Testing
- American Petroleum Institute, 1271 Avenue of the Americas, New York City 10020
Fire Protection in Refineries
Recommended Practices for Refinery Inspections, Part III, "Fire Protection Equipment"
- Factory Mutual Engineering Corporation, 1151 Boston-Providence Turnpike, Norwood, Mass 02062
Approved Equipment for Industrial Fire Protection
Handbook of Industrial Loss Prevention New York, McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1959
Maintenance of Fire Hose, Loss Prevention Data—Extinguishing Equipment 4-2 (July 1965)
- Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association, Inc., 1803 S Busse Rd., Mt Prospect, Ill 60056
Inspecting, Recharging and Maintaining Portable Fire Extinguishers
- National Association of Fire Equipment Distributors, Inc., 111 East Wacker Dr., Chicago, Ill 60601 *Portable Fire Extinguisher Guide*
- National Fire Protection Association, 470 Atlantic Ave., Boston, Mass 02110
National Fire Codes
Fire Protection Handbook
Inspection Manual
Standards
Carbon Dioxide Extinguishing Systems, Standard No 12
Dry Chemical Extinguishing Systems, Standard No 17
Foam Extinguishing Systems, Standard No 11
Inerting for Fire & Explosion Prevention, Standard No 69
Outside Protection (Yard Piping), Standard No 24
Portable Fire Extinguishers, Installation, Maintenance & Use, Standards No 10 and 10A
Sprinkler Systems, Installation, Standard No 13
Standpipe & Hose Systems, Installation, Standard No 14
Water Spray Systems for Fire Protection, Standard No 15