

Operation. Can be operated intermittently by removing locking ring and squeezing combination operating lever-handle Extinguisher is pressurized with air or inert gas through a hose line equipped with an automobile-type air chuck Charging pressures vary from 90 to 150 psi Direct the stream at the base of the fire, then follow up after the flames while working from side-to-side or around the fire if possible

Maintenance. Check pressure, hose, and nozzle frequently When charging extinguisher, fill only to water level mark so there will be sufficient room for pressurized air Some models have an overfill tube that ensures filling to the proper level When pressurizing, the gauge should indicate just above the full mark, then, when the pressure equalizes, it will not read less than full After charging, let it stand for 24 hr to check for leaks

Caution Protect from freezing Be sure shell is the corrosive-resistant type before adding antifreeze charge Do not refill with loaded-stream charge unless extinguisher is designated as loaded-stream type

FIG 36-15 —Stored pressure water fire extinguisher May be labeled "loaded stream" if charged with a special alkali-metal salt solution instead of water

the quantity, and its physical form are all determining factors that must be considered when selecting the proper type of agent and the method of application

Selection of extinguishers Operating characteristics that make one type of portable fire extinguisher suitable for certain fire hazards may make the same type dangerous for others

The purchaser and user of extinguishers should secure on-the-job advice from fire inspection bureaus, fire insurance carriers, and fire protection engineers

Choosing the right extinguisher is extremely important All too frequently cost is given more consideration than adequate protection Remember, good extinguishers are worth their cost because of the protection they give

Although suitable types and sizes are installed in conformance with NFPA Standard No 10, there is a certain flexibility that can be used to the purchaser's advantage For example, if a certain condition calls for the maximum protection of a 10-B unit, one could choose from a 5-lb dry chemical, a 17-gal wheeled-foam, a 15-lb carbon dioxide, or a 5-lb multipurpose dry chemical extinguisher The relative advantages and disadvantages of each of these units should be considered with respect to all the conditions in the area It is also wise to investigate the relative merits of any particular extinguisher available on the market For example, there are dry chemical extinguishers of the 10-lb size that have an 8-B C rating, others with a 10-B C rating and still others with a 16-B C rating

The design and operating features, ease of maintenance, and the availability of repair service should be considered too If possible, actually operating and testing the extinguisher may make a great deal of difference in the final selection

The following discussion of portable extinguishers is divided into (*a*) water solution extinguishers, (*b*) dry-chemical, carbon dioxide, and liquefied-gas extinguishers, and