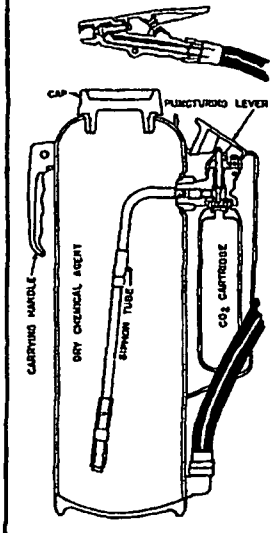
When recharging, it is important to use only the dry chemical agent and cartridge that is recommended by the extinguisher manufacturers

Sodium bicarbonate-base dry chemical, the most common agent, is available in ordinary form and foam compatible form The foam compatible type can be used simultaneously with foam without causing the foam blanket to break down

Potassium bicarbonate-base dry chemical, "purple K," is similar in extinguishing properties to sodium bicarbonate base dry chemical, but it has twice the effective fire-fighting capacity on a pound-to-pound basis This agent has good moisture repellency and is compatible with the simultaneous use of water or foam Operator technique is not critical because it does not allow fuel to reflash as easily or as rapidly as sodium bicarbonate The absence of momentary flare-up also permits the user to approach fires more closely Also, the potassium compound extinguishes the leading edges of contained flammable liquid fires more easily than the sodium compound

Ammonium phosphate-base dry chemical (multipurpose) has operating characteristics on Class B and C fires similar to sodium and potassium base dry chemical extinguishers. When discharged into a Class A fire, chemical reaction will destroy the flames and a coating, formed when the extinguishing agent softens and adheres to the burning surface thereby retarding further combustion To obtain complete extinguishment on Class A materials, all burning areas must be thoroughly exposed to the extinguishing agent Because any small burning ember may be a source of reignition, the importance of proper application on Class A fires is more critical than with water extinguishers In the presence of moisture, multipurpose dry chemicals may cause corrosion when discharged on metals.

(Text continues on page 34-28)



Operation Carbon dioxide gas is the propellant for the dry chemical To operate, remove nozzle from holster and press puncturing lever (On some models pull locking ring pin and push charging lever down) This will release the gas and pressurize the large chamber containing the dry chemical The discharge is controlled by the nozzle on the end of the hose When the fire is out and the extinguisher is no longer needed, invert the container, hold nozzle in the air, and squeeze lever to release all residual pressure

Maintenance. Weigh carbon dioxide cartridge every 6 months, replace if it has lost ½ oz of the weight stamped on the shell Annually check dry chemical for caking and proper level, cap gaskets for deterioration, hose, nozzle, and siphon tube for obstructions, and container for physical damage or corrosion

Caution Dry chemical will cake if moisture enters container Never wash out extinguisher or parts with water or other liquid Special models are available for temperatures below —40 F and above 120 F

Fig 34-20. Dry chemical fire extinguisher, cartridge operated.