

What's the Risk?

Fire Extinguisher Maintenance



THE ISSUE

Having a fire extinguisher inside a house or barn is a simple and inexpensive tool that can be used to prevent a small fire from becoming a big fire. However, just having it there is not enough – it must be maintained. Fire extinguisher maintenance is an easy proactive step anyone can do. And it's a small investment to avoid a destructive fire.



WHAT'S THE RISK?

Lack of maintenance could mean the fire extinguisher you are counting on may not work when you need it.



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Frequent inspection and continued maintenance of all fire extinguishers is critical. Complete the following steps monthly.

1. If there is a discharge hose, inspect it for cracks, a plugged nozzle, or other visible damage. If your extinguisher does not have a hose, ensure the discharge nozzle is clear of debris.
2. Check that the tank pressure is within the recommended level. The arrow on the gauge should be within the green charged area of the pressure gauge.
3. Check that the safety pin and retaining strap for the pin are intact and undamaged.
4. Check the body of the unit for dents, leaks, or rust. Any fire extinguisher that is dented, has rust on the body, or is leaking should be removed from service to be inspected and repaired by a qualified fire extinguisher service company.
5. Tip the fire extinguisher upside down to determine if the extinguishant inside the unit moves freely. Tapping the bottom of the unit with the palm of your hand can loosen the extinguishant powder within the unit.
6. If there are signs of extinguishant powder at the nozzle or in the hose, or if the extinguisher appears to have been used, it should be inspected and serviced by a qualified a fire extinguisher service company.
7. At least once a year a qualified extinguisher service company should inspect all fire extinguishers on the property.

