

INSPECTING FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Inspecting Fire Extinguishers

If employees use portable fire extinguishers to fight small fires, they must be installed in all areas of the workplace. To ensure each area is protected properly, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is the extinguisher readily accessible in the event of a fire?
- Is the extinguisher fully charged and working properly?

Portable fire extinguishers should be inspected monthly and annually. A monthly inspection can be a quick check of the equipment or a longer process. The annual inspection should be a thorough inspection done by a qualified person.

Things to check in a monthly inspection:

- Extinguishers are in their designated location and secured properly.
- Not obstructed for visibility and accessibility.
- Obvious physical damage, corrosion, leaks, ect.
- Legible operating instructions on extinguisher.
- Seals are not broken or missing.
- Pressure-gauge readings are in the green.

Upon arrival to a new site make sure you are aware of the closest fire extinguisher. IF the extinguisher fails a monthly inspection, remove it from the site. Contact your shop or supervisor for a replacement.

