



PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Selection

Medford Fire Department requires most businesses to have at least one "2A-10B-C" rechargeable fire extinguisher on the premises. This Class A fire extinguisher is designed for fires that occur in ordinary combustible materials such as wood, fabric, paper, and many plastics. Some businesses are required to have fire extinguishers with a different rating. Class B fire extinguishers are designed for fires in combustible and flammable liquids. Class C extinguishers are designed for electrical fires. A fire extinguisher rated as an A-B-C is an all-purpose fire extinguisher for all three kinds of fires.

This table shows the minimum types of extinguishers required for specific occupancies and operations:
<http://www.ci.medford.or.us/Files/Fire%20Extinguishers.pdf>

Distribution

Most businesses are required to have at least one fire extinguisher mounted to serve a maximum of 75' of travel distance. *Example:* A hall that is 150' long, requires 1 extinguisher to be mounted in the middle, 75' from each end. Requirements vary depending on the type of business. More extinguishers may be required in businesses with higher hazard classifications.

Mounting

Mount fire extinguishers in locations that are easily accessible and available in the event of fire. The bottom of the extinguisher shall be at least four inches (4") above the floor. The top of the extinguisher shall not be more than 5' above the floor (3.5' feet if the unit weighs 40 lbs. or more.) Cabinets housing fire extinguishers shall not be locked except in cases where they may be subject to vandalism or malicious use. If the cabinet is locked, a means of emergency access shall be provided. An example would be a metal breaker bar secured by a chain to the side of the cabinet.

Maintenance & inspections procedures

- **Monthly quick checks:** Verify that the extinguisher is in place, the pressure gauge reads full charge (in the green), the safety pin is in place, the seal that retains the safety pin in in place, and the discharge nozzle/hose is in place. Record the date on the back of the annual service tag attached to the extinguisher and initial**.
- **Annual maintenance checks, hydrostatic tests, and internal service** as needed shall be performed by a trained, authorized service provider.

NOTE: When you purchase a new extinguisher, **document the date of purchase.** The Medford Fire Department will accept, a) a receipt attached to the extinguisher, or b) a note in permanent marker on the bottom of the extinguisher that says "NEW (date)". If the fire department inspects your business before the sprinkler is 1 year old, this documentation shows that the extinguisher is not yet due for service.