

Barkhamsted Fire District

Fire Extinguishers Policy

October 1, 2002

In accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.157

PURPOSE:

To provide a policy for maintenance and inspection of all portable fire extinguishers located at all Barkhamsted Fire District Fire Departments in accordance to the OSHA 1910.157 Portable Fire Extinguisher Standard.

RESPONSIBILITY:

The establishment and maintenance of the Fire Extinguisher Policy is the responsibility of the Chief or a designated officer.

POLICY:

- A. The selection of fire extinguishers will be based on the anticipated hazards. (type of potential fire, size of extinguisher required and degree)
- B. All fire extinguishers will be visually inspected monthly
- C. Annual maintenance and recorded dates shall be retained on file
- D. The inspection process shall insure that all fire extinguishers are fully charged and in operable condition.
- E. All fire extinguishers must be mounted and located with conspicuous identification (Class A not to exceed 75 ft, Class B not to exceed 50 feet from hazard Class C as needed and Class D not to exceed 75 feet travel distance)
- F. The proper fire extinguisher must be available to match the hazard class of fire
- G. Annual maintenance shall include the following:
 - A record of the inspection date (retained for at least one year)
 - A trained person must perform hydrostatic testing every 5 years for soda acid or wet extinguishers and approximately 12 years for Halon or dry type fire extinguishers. Testing may be required if corrosion or mechanical injury has occurred.
 - Dry fire extinguishers must be checked that stored pressure is adequate
- H. All members shall be trained and educated as to each location, use and inspection process for the available fire extinguishers as part of the orientation process.
- I. Training shall include proper fire extinguisher use as well as recognition of fire hazards and limitations of fire extinguishers.

PROCEEDURE:

1. Visually inspect the whole extinguisher. Note that the extinguisher is properly identified, mounted and the access is not obstructed
2. Report any signs of damage, tampering or corrosion.
3. Examine to verify that the extinguisher is in operable condition:
 - The fire extinguisher should have an instruction guide marked on it.
 - Check the extinguisher pressure gauge.
 - Check the safety pin is not missing or broken.
 - Check that the hose and nozzle assembly are not damaged, cracked or clogged.
 - Check for appropriate dates: Last inspection, Hydrostatic test date and manufacturers date.
4. Sign off that inspection has been completed for compliance documentation.