## FULLERTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

# FIRE PREVENTION STANDARDS

**APPLICATION**:

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

**JUSTIFICATION**:

2010 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE (CFC), CHAPTER 9, SECTION 906
NFPA STANDARD #10 - PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, LATEST EDITION
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 19

**STANDARDS:**

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Multipurpose dry chemical (ABC) fire extinguishers should be used for all applications unless specifically noted otherwise. This type of extinguisher is inexpensive, easily serviced and effective on most types of fires.
B. Portable extinguishers shall be maintained in a fully charged and operable condition and kept in their designated places.
C. Extinguishers shall be conspicuously located where they are readily visible; located along normal paths of travel.
D. Extinguishers shall not be obstructed from view. Under circumstances where this cannot be avoided, signs shall be provided to indicate their location.
E. Extinguishers having a gross weight not exceeding 40 lbs. shall be installed so that the top of the extinguisher is not more than five feet above the floor, and no less than 4” from the floor. Extinguishers weighing more than 40 lbs. shall have their tops no more than 3-1/2 feet from the floor.
F. Extinguishers shall be provided for the protection of both the building structure, if combustible (Class A), and the occupancy hazards contained within the structure (Class A, B, C or D).

II. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

A. Occupancies such as offices, classrooms, churches, and assembly halls are considered light hazards. They shall be provided with one fire extinguisher, rated at 2A 10 BC, for each 3,000 square feet of floor area

per floor. The travel distance from any point in a building to the nearest extinguisher shall not exceed 75 feet.

B. Occupancies such as mercantile shops, light manufacturing research operations, auto showrooms, workshops and parking garages (and congregate residences) are considered ordinary hazards. They shall be protected by one 2A 10BC extinguisher for each 1,500 square feet of floor area per floor. Travel distance from any point in the building to the nearest extinguisher shall not exceed 75 feet.

C. Occupancies such as woodworking and vehicle repair shops or manufacturing processes utilizing flammable liquids are considered to be hazardous and shall be provided with one 4A 40BC fire extinguisher for each 1,000 square feet of floor area per floor. Travel distance from any point in the building to the nearest extinguisher shall not exceed 75 feet.

D. Portable fire extinguishers shall not be installed as the sole protection for flammable liquid hazards of appreciable depth - greater than 1/4 inch where the surface exceeds 10 square feet.

E. Extinguishers with Class C ratings shall be required where energized electrical equipment may be encountered which would require a non-conducting extinguishing medium.

F. Extinguishers or extinguishing agents with Class D ratings shall be provided for fires involving combustible metals.

G. Extinguishers with Class K ratings shall be provided in kitchens with combustible cooking media (vegetable or animal oils and fats). Maximum travel distance shall not exceed 30 feet from the hazard to the extinguishers.

III. SERVICE TAGS: Every fire extinguisher shall have a service tag attached which shows inspection, service and recharge dates. For new extinguishers, the sales receipt is acceptable for one year from date of purchase.

IV. MAINTENANCE: Every pressurized fire extinguisher (except carbon dioxide, liquid gas and factory sealed disposable type), shall be serviced yearly or immediately after use, whichever occurs first. **Note:** Every six years, stored pressure dry chemical and dry powder fire extinguishers that require a 12 year hydrostatic test must be discharged, emptied and subjected to the applicable maintenance procedures.

V. RECORDKEEPING: Monthly inspections must be recorded on the back of the service tag or label attached to the fire extinguisher, an inspection checklist maintained on file, or an electronic system (e.g. bar coding) that provides a permanent record.

VI. EXCEPTION FOR CONGREGATE RESIDENCES: Should a building owner or manager have any problems with theft or vandalism of the fire extinguishers they may request an exception (in writing) to provide an individual fire extinguisher

inside each apartment or dwelling unit. The Fire Marshal will review the request and approve or deny, and a copy of the communications will be kept in the Fire Prevention site file for future reference.

VII. DEFINITIONS:

A. Types of Fires
   1. Class A: Ordinary combustible materials such as wood, paper, rubber and many plastics.
   2. Class B: Flammable liquids, oils, greases, tars, lacquer, oil base paints and flammable gases.
   3. Class C: Energized electrical equipment (when equipment is de-energized, the fire becomes Class A or B).
   4. Class D: Combustible metals such as magnesium, titanium, zirconium, sodium, lithium and potassium.

B. Portable Fire Extinguisher: A portable device containing powder, liquid or gas which can be expelled under pressure for the purpose of suppressing or extinguishing fire.

C. Labeled: Extinguisher has attached label, symbol or other identifying mark of the California State Fire Marshal, and recognized testing laboratory..