



Five Minutes to ***Fire Safety***

Topic: Monthly Fire Extinguisher Checks

Every school building has fire extinguishers in hallways, classrooms, and offices. We know fire extinguishers need to have monthly checks, but what does this consist of?

Check the location.

- Is the extinguisher in the proper location?
- Is it accessible and visible?
- Is it properly mounted to the wall?

Check the outside.

- Is the operating tag of the extinguisher facing out?
- Is the tamper seal intact?
- Is the shell of the extinguisher in good condition or has it been damaged or tampered with?
- If the extinguisher has a hose, is it in good condition?
- Is there any residue or physical evidence the extinguisher has been discharged?
- Is the discharge nozzle free of clogging?

Check the contents.

- Is the stored pressure within the allowable (typically green) range?
- Pick up the extinguisher. Does it feel full, or does it feel like it matches what the gauge reads? Use your best judgment.

If all these items appear to be correct, date and initial the tag of the extinguisher. If you are looking at a dry chemical fire extinguisher, turn it over and give the bottom of the extinguisher a quick thump. This will help keep the dry powder loose and ready for use. Then replace the extinguisher on its mounting bracket.

If any problems were found, consider pulling the fire extinguisher out of service and having a qualified firm or individual do a further, more thorough inspection. Remember, if you remove a fire extinguisher from service, immediately replace it with a working extinguisher.

Kansas State Fire Marshal
700 SW Jackson, Suite 600
Topeka, KS 66603-3714
Phone: 785-296-3401
Fax: 785-296-0151

