

# FACT SHEET



## Serving Fire Extinguishers A Guide for Consumers

Fire Extinguishers installed in all commercial buildings (offices, retail stores, warehouses, factories, etc.), in public buildings (hospitals, schools, universities, theaters, etc.), and multi-occupancy residential buildings all need to be regularly inspected and tested. The inspection, test and maintenance requirement for fire extinguishers is specified in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 10) Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers and the Utah Administrative Rule – R710.1. Concerns Servicing Fire Extinguishers.

There are some key points that property owners, property managers, tenants and the general community should be aware of to ensure they receive the appropriate level of service, and to understand what they are being charged for. The following provides some guidelines to assist you as what to look for when you receive service of fire extinguishers:



One indicator the fire extinguisher is charged and serviceable is the pressure gauge needle will be located in the green.

## Servicing Requirements

- ▶ All extinguishers are to be inspected monthly by the owner or designee to identify the extinguisher is in place, accessible and in serviceable condition.
- ▶ All extinguishers are required to receive annual maintenance by a professional licensed and certified agent. Some extinguisher types may require additional service be preformed periodically.
- ▶ Common extinguishers need to be emptied, pressure tested (hydrostatic test) and refilled every five years.
- ▶ The test dates and intervals are to be recorded on a label, verification neck ring and/or service tag at time service is preformed.
- ▶ As long as the fire extinguisher is in serviceable condition, no other work is required. However, should the pressure gauge indicate low, no pressure or if the extinguisher was discharged, or the weight of the extinguisher is too low, the extinguisher is to be serviced. Even if only partially discharged the unit will need to be refilled and recharged to serviceable condition.

### UTAH STATE FIRE MARSHAL TAG AND LABEL FORMAT

A form for recording fire extinguisher inspections. It includes a header with the Utah State Fire Marshal logo and the text "UTAH STATE FIRE MARSHAL TAG AND LABEL FORMAT". Below the header are two columns: "INSPECTION" and "REPAIRS". The "INSPECTION" column contains a grid for recording inspection dates and results. The "REPAIRS" column contains a grid for recording repair dates and descriptions. The form also includes fields for "COMPANY NAME AND ADDRESS WILL PRINT HERE" and "PHONE (801) 225-1111".

Annual fire extinguisher inspections are to be recorded on a date-tag



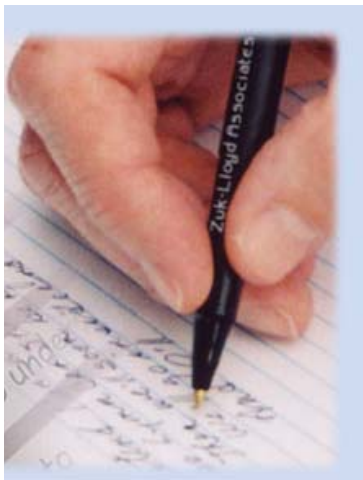
Annual fire extinguisher training is necessary for user proficiency.



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Service technicians need to identify themselves to a responsible party before proceeding to undertake any work.



Service personnel are to sign off on all service work and provide documentation of charges for provided service.

**Office of the State Fire Marshal  
5272 South College Drive, Suite 302  
Murray City, Utah 84123**



**801-284-6349 Office  
801-284-6351 Fax  
[www.firemarshal.utah.gov](http://www.firemarshal.utah.gov)**

## Servicing Personnel

Service technicians need to identify themselves to a receptionist, member of staff or person responsible for building security before proceeding to undertake any work. Always check their ID, even if they are wearing a uniform, and ensure they are from your regular service provider if you have one.

Fire extinguisher servicing companies and their technicians have no authority to enforce legislation and make threat of fines or prosecution. The Utah State Fire Marshal's Office strongly recommends any person making such claims and or engaging in intimidating tactics be reported and be ordered to leave the premises immediately.

If a service technician you have not dealt with before advises that an existing fire extinguisher you have is not tagged, is of the wrong type or has not been serviced in timely fashion, request an explanation as to why and seek another opinion if not satisfied with the explanation.

Get the service personnel to sign off all necessary documentation and ensure they explain what service work they are charging for. A reputable company will be happy to explain the work being charged for and provide appropriate customer service.

Small and large service companies carry out extinguisher servicing. The State of Utah requires all Fire Extinguisher service companies be licensed with the State Fire Marshal's Office and that all service personnel carry a Certification of Registration on their person when representing the company holding the License.

There are courses in extinguisher maintenance available nationally and, while they are not compulsory, you may wish to ask if the extinguisher maintenance person working on your systems has training or has appropriate qualifications to do so.

The Utah State Fire Marshal's Office strongly recommends establishing an agreement with a specific company to provide the regular fire extinguisher servicing requirements and to ensure recognized technicians from that company undertake the work on your extinguishers.