

## MILL VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT



Prepared by *Jeff Davidson*  
Jeff Davidson, Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal  
Approved by *Robert G. Riser*  
Robert G. Riser, Fire Chief

### Fire Protection Standard 405B

## FIRE EXTINGUISHER SERVICING

Date: 03/01/2003

Revision: \_\_\_\_\_

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This standard has been developed in accordance with the California Code of Regulations Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 3. The purpose of this standard is to outline specific criteria for fire extinguisher servicing.

### I. General Maintenance Requirement:

- A. Fire extinguishers shall be subject to maintenance by a company licensed by the California State Fire Marshal, **annually**, or sooner if the extinguisher has been either full or partially discharged, or as indicated by a deficiency found during inspection. At the time of the annual inspection, an "Annual Maintenance" tag shall be affixed at the time indicating the month, day and year that the maintenance was performed.
- B. Fire extinguishers shall be inspected **at least monthly** by the building owner, occupant, or their designee. Records of such inspection shall be kept on the reverse side of the annual service tag or in a maintenance record kept on file.
- C. Monthly inspection of the extinguisher shall include a check of at least the following items:
  - 1. Located in the designated place.
  - 2. No obstructions to access or visibility.
  - 3. Operating instructions on nameplate legible and facing forward.
  - 4. Safety seals and tamper indicators not broken or missing.
  - 5. Examine for obvious physical damage, corrosion, leakage or clogged nozzle.
  - 6. Pressure gage reading or indicator in the operable range or position.
  - 7. Determine fullness by hefting and, if needed, by weighting.
- D. Fire extinguishers shall be subject to a breakdown and internal examination by a company licensed by the California State Fire Marshal, **once every six years** unless need is indicated by a deficiency found during monthly inspection or annual maintenance. A "Verification of Service" collar shall be affixed at this time indicating the month, day and year that the breakdown and internal examination was performed.
- E. Fire extinguishers shall be subject to Hydrostatic Testing by a company licensed by the California State Fire Marshal, according to Table 5 of the California Code of Regulations Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 3, Article 7. The table can also be found in the Fire Extinguisher Study Guide published by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The interval requirements are based on the type, construction and placement of an extinguisher.
- F. A tamper seal or tamper indicator shall be provided on **every** portable fire extinguisher.

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## II Specific maintenance by type:

- A Dry Chemical and Dry Powder Portable Fire Extinguishers.
  - 1. Subject to all provisions listed in the General Maintenance Requirements
- B. Carbon Dioxide Extinguishers.
  - 1. Subject to all provisions listed in the General Maintenance Requirements.
  - 2. Exception: Internal Maintenance shall be performed every 5 years at the time of Hydrostatic Test.
- C. Halogenated Agent Extinguisher.
  - 1. Subject to all provisions listed in the General Maintenance Requirements.
- D. Stored Pressure Water Type Extinguisher.
  - 1. Subject to all provisions listed in the General Maintenance Requirements.
  - 2. In addition, stored pressure extinguishers containing water or loaded stream agents shall be disassembled on an **annual** basis and subjected to a complete maintenance.
- E. Obsolete Fire Extinguishers. The following types of fire extinguishers are considered obsolete and shall be removed from service.
  - 1. Soda Acid types
  - 2. Chemical Foam (excluding AFFF and FFFP)
  - 3. Vaporizing Liquid (e.g., carbon tetrachloride)
  - 4. Cartridge-operated water
  - 5. Cartridge-operated Loaded Stream
  - 6. Copper or Brass shell fire extinguishers (excluding pump tanks) joined by soft solder or rivets.
  - 7. Stored Pressure Water extinguishers with fiberglass shells.
- F. Hydrostatic Test intervals for fire extinguishers (Table 5) \*

| Extinguisher Type                                                                             | Test Interval (Years) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Stored Pressure Water and/or Antifrees/Loaded Stream                                          | 5                     |
| AFFF (Aqueous Film Forming Foam)                                                              | 5                     |
| FFFP (Film Forming Fluoroprotein Foam)                                                        | 5                     |
| Wet Chemical                                                                                  | 5                     |
| Dry Chemical with Stainless Steel Shells                                                      | 5                     |
| Carbon Dioxide                                                                                | 5                     |
| Dry Chemical, Stored Pressure with Mild Steel Shells, Brazed Brass Shells, or Aluminum Shells | 12                    |
| Dry Chemical, Cartridge and Cylinder-Operated with Mild Steel Shells                          | 12                    |
| Halogenated Agents                                                                            | 12                    |
| Dry Powder, Stored Pressure, Cartridge or Cylinder-Operated with Mild Steel Shells            | 12                    |

\* Extinguishers installed on/in vehicles shall be hydrostatically tested every 5 years.

