

## California General Industry Safety Orders Portable Fire Extinguishers - 6151

### *Portable Fire Extinguishers*

#### **Scope and Application**

The requirements of this Section apply to the placement, use, maintenance, and testing of portable fire extinguishers provided for the use of employees

#### **General Requirements**

The employer shall provide portable fire extinguishers and shall mount, locate and identify them so that they are readily accessible to employees without subjecting the employees to possible injury

Only approved portable fire extinguishers shall be used to meet the requirements of this section

The employer shall assure that portable fire extinguishers are maintained in a fully charged and operable condition and kept in their designated places at all times except during use

#### **Selection and Distribution**

Where portable fire extinguishers are provided for employee use, they shall be selected and distributed based on the classes of anticipated work place fires and on the size and degree of hazard which would affect their use.

The employer shall distribute portable fire extinguishers for use by employees on

Class A (Ordinary Combustible) the travel distance to any extinguisher is 75 feet (22.9m) or less.

Class B (Flammable Liquids) the travel distance to any extinguisher is 50 feet (15.2m) or less.

Class C (Electrical Equipment) the travel pattern should match the existing Class A or Class B hazards.

Class D (Combustible Metal) the travel distance is 75 feet (22.9m) or less.

#### **NFPA Standards: Mounting Extinguishers**

The top of an Extinguisher with a gross weight of 40 lbs or less should no more than 5 feet from the floor

The top of an Extinguishers with a gross weight over 40 lbs no more than 3 1/2 feet form the floor

The bottom of the extinguisher must be at least 4 inches from the floor

#### **Inspection, Maintenance and Testing**

The employer shall be responsible for the inspection, maintenance and testing of all portable fire extinguishers in the workplace. Portable extinguishers shall be visually inspected monthly.

Portable fire extinguishers shall be subjected to an annual maintenance check. The employer shall record the annual maintenance date and retain this record for one year after the last entry or the life of the shell, whichever is less

#### **Training and Education**

The employer shall also provide an educational program to familiarize employees with the general principles of fire extinguisher use and the hazards involved with incipient stage fire fighting

The employer shall provide the education upon initial employment and at least annually thereafter

Cal OSHA standards can be reviewed at  
<http://www.dir.ca.gov/samples/search/query.htm>