Oregon OSHA Adopted Changes to Portable Fire Extinguishers in Division 2/L

Oregon OSHA Administrative Order 10-2008 Adopted and effective December 31, 2008

437-002-0187 Portable Fire Extinguishers.

This rule applies to portable fire extinguishers not in vehicles or vessels. (NOTE: The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal and your local fire marshal also have rules that apply to portable fire extinguishers.)

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:
To assure that you provide functional extinguishers and your employees know when and how to use them safely.

If another Oregon rule requires you to provide fire extinguishers, the following exemptions do not apply to you.

EXEMPTIONS:
You are exempt from these rules if:

Your portable fire extinguishers are not accessible to employees.

AND

You have a written fire safety policy that requires the immediate and total evacuation of employees in the event of fire. (NOTE: This fire safety policy is not the same as your emergency action plan and fire prevention plan.)

AND

You have an emergency action plan and fire prevention plan that conform to OAR 437-002-0042 and OAR 437-002-0043.

PARTIAL EXEMPTION:
If extinguishers are present and accessible, but you do not intend employees to use them, AND you have an emergency action plan and fire prevention plan that meet OAR 437-002-0042 and 437-002-0043, then only paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 apply.

See Non-mandatory Appendix A – Summary of exemptions and rule requirements for 437-002-0187.

Definitions

Accessible – capable of being reached without hindrance.

Inspection – A quick check that the extinguisher has not been activated and has no damage or condition that would make it ineffective. This includes a check of the gauge or pressure indicator, if there is one.

Maintenance – A thorough examination for damage or conditions that would make internal examination or hydrostatic testing necessary more frequently than in Table 2 or 3.

(1) If you provide extinguishers
You must:

- Never provide or allow the use of extinguishers with dangerous or banned agents like carbon tetrachloride or chlorobromomethane.

- Never provide or allow the use of soda-acid foam, loaded stream, anti-freeze and water (inverting type) extinguishers. (See the latest NFPA 10 for a complete list of obsolete or banned extinguishers.)

  EXEMPTION: You are exempt from the maximum travel distance requirements in Table 1 of this rule if you have an emergency action plan that complies with OAR 437-002-0042, designating which employees authorized to use the available fire extinguishers and requiring all other employees to evacuate.

- Provide and place the correct type and size fire extinguisher according to Table 1. This only applies to extinguishers for use inside buildings.

Table 1

Type of fire hazard	Maximum travel distance to an extinguisher
Wood, cloth, paper, rubber (Class A fires)	No more than 75 feet NOTE: You may use adequately placed standpipes or hose stations instead of Class A extinguishers if they comply with OAR 437-002-1910.158.
Liquids, grease, gases (Class B fires)	No more than 50 feet NOTE: You may choose smaller extinguishers than normally required but the spacing cannot be more than 30 feet.
Live electrical equipment & circuits (Class C fires)	Distribute any Class C portable fire extinguishers according to the location and size of the electrical hazard. NOTE: If the equipment is not live you may use a Class A or Class B extinguisher.
Powder, flakes & residue from combustible metals, like magnesium & titanium that build up (Class D fires)	No more than 75 feet.
Fires that involve combustible cooking media (Class K fires)	No more than 30 feet.

- Mount extinguishers in a manner appropriate for their type and location.
- Not allow extinguishers to sit on the floor, shelves or furniture.
- Use appropriate signs or other unique markings to identify extinguisher locations.
- Never block access to extinguishers.

(2) Inspection and maintenance
You must:

- Visually inspect each extinguisher monthly.
- Be sure the extinguishers have a full charge and no defects that prevent effective use.
- Remove and replace any extinguisher that is not fully operable.
- Complete annual maintenance on each extinguisher using only persons or companies acceptable to your local fire authorities.
- Keep a record of the annual maintenance until replaced by a new record. The record must be available to OR-OSHA on request.

- Provide replacement extinguishers or some method of coverage for the effected area while extinguishers are out of service for the maintenance check.

- Do internal examinations at intervals not longer than the requirements set in Table 2, using only persons or companies acceptable to local fire authorities.

- Nonrechargeable extinguishers are good for 12 years from the date of manufacture and then must be taken out of service.

TABLE 2

Internal Examination of Rechargeable Extinguishers	
Extinguisher Type	Internal Examination Interval (years)
Stored-pressure loaded-stream and antifreeze	1
Pump tank water and pump tank calcium chloride based	1
Dry chemical, cartridge- and cylinder-operated, with mild steel shells	1*
Dry powder, cartridge- and cylinder-operated with mild steel shells	1*
Wetting agent	1
Stored-pressure water	5
AFFF (aqueous film-forming foam)	+
FFFP (film-forming fluoroprotein foam)	+
Stored-pressure dry chemical, with stainless steel shells	5
Carbon dioxide	5
Wet chemical	5
Dry chemical stored-pressure, with mild steel shells, brazed brass shells, and aluminum shells	6
Halogenated agents	6
Dry powder, stored-pressure, with mild steel shells	
*Dry chemical in cylinder-operated extinguishers is examined annually. +The extinguishing agent in liquid charge-type AFFF and FFFP extinguishers is replaced every 3 years and an internal examination (tear-down) is normally conducted at a time. The agent in solid charge-type AFFF extinguishers is replaced every 5 years during the periodic hydrostatic test and the teardown is done at that time.	

NOTE: Nonrechargeable extinguishers do not require internal examinations or hydrostatic testing.

(3) Hydrostatic testing
You must:

- Assure a hydrostatic test of each extinguisher at intervals in Table 3 or when the extinguisher shows corrosion or physical damage.

- Use only persons or companies acceptable to local fire authorities to do hydrostatic testing.

- Empty and do applicable maintenance every six years on stored pressure extinguishers that require a 12-year hydrostatic test. This six-year requirement begins again after recharging or hydrostatic testing.

Table 3 Hydrostatic Test Table	
Type of extinguisher	Test interval (Years)
Stored pressure water and/or antifreeze	5
Wetting agent	5
Foam (stainless steel shell)	5
Aqueous film forming form (AFFF)	5
Loaded stream	5
Dry chemical with stainless steel	5
Carbon dioxide	5
Dry chemical, stored pressure, with mild steel, brazed brass or aluminum shells	12
Halon 1211	12
Halon 1301	12
Dry powder, cartridge or cylinder operated, with mild steel shell	12
Note: Do not do hydrostatic testing on stored pressure water extinguishers with fiberglass shells before 1976.	

- Keep a record of the hydrostatic test until it is replaced by a new record or the extinguisher is no longer in use. The record must have at least the date of test, test pressure, serial number of the extinguisher (or other unique identifier), and the person or company doing the test.

(4) Employee training
You must:

- Train employees in the safe use of extinguishers and standpipe hoses when you require or allow their use. Training must be at first hiring and then annually and must include:

    - The general methods and tactics of using an extinguisher.
    - The hazards of using an extinguisher on early stage fires.
    - Hazards associated with using standpipe hoses.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 654.025(2) and 656.726(4).
Stats. Implemented: ORS 654.001 through 654.295.
Hist: OR-OSHA Admin. Order 7-2007, f. 11/8/07, ef. 11/8/07.
OR-OSHA Admin. Order 10-2008, f. 12/31/08, ef. 12/31/08.