

Safety-Gram

Title 45, Chapter 11

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FIRE EXTINGUISHER INSPECTIONS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**Fire Extinguishers:
The First Line of Defense
Keep Them Maintained
and Inspected**

- **Inspect and keep records.** ODM requires periodic inspections with records kept of such inspections. MSHA requires monthly ones. Following MSHA's regulations will meet ODM's regulation.
- **Test and maintain according to manufacturer's recommendation.** Tag each extinguisher with the date of testing and the examiner's name. ODM requires testing every 12 months. MSHA requires annual maintenance.
- **Hydrostatic testing.** MSHA requires hydrostatic testing according to a regulation schedule or a schedule based on the manufacturer's recommendation. ODM does not specifically require hydrostatic testing unless it is part of the manufacturer's recommendation. Then it must be followed.

HINT: Following MSHA's regulations for inspection, testing, maintenance and record keeping will meet ODM's regulations.

MONTHLY FIRE EXTINGUISHER SELF-INSPECTIONS

Below is a **step-by-step guide** to completing monthly fire extinguisher self-inspections:

- Ensure fire extinguisher is in its **designated place**.
- Make sure the fire extinguisher is **visible** and/or there is **signage in place** indicating where the fire extinguisher is located.
- Determine if the fire extinguisher can be **easily accessed**.
- Ensure the **pressure gauge** is operable.
- Make sure the fire extinguisher is **full**.



O.S. Title 45, Chapter 11, § 910

16. Fire-fighting equipment shall be strategically located, readily accessible, plainly marked, properly maintained & inspected periodically with records kept of such inspections;
17. Fire extinguishers shall be:
 - a. adequate in number and size & of the appropriate type for each particular fire hazard involved,
 - b. replaced immediately with full charged extinguishers of the same capability after any discharge is made from the extinguishers,
 - c. tested at least once every twelve (12) months & maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendation. Each extinguisher shall bear a tag showing the date of testing & the name of the person making the examination for testing, and
 - d. approved by Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc. or Factory Mutual Research Corporation.