

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. *What happens if I forget to do my annual self-inspection or if I don't record it?***
- A. If you fail to complete or record your annual self-inspection you will be required to have the extinguishers serviced by a certified fire extinguisher company before continuing in the self-inspection program.
- Q. *How do I know when my six-year recharge or 12-year hydrostatic test is due?***
- A. You can find the manufacture date on the body of the extinguisher which is typically on the label or stamped on the neck or the base. The first recharge shall occur within six-years after the date of manufacture and the first hydrostatic test shall occur 12-years from the date of manufacture. Use the service tag affixed at the completion of the test to calculate the next required certified maintenance date.
- Q. *Can I just by new extinguishers?***
- A. Yes, you may purchase new extinguishers to replace ones scheduled for recharging, hydrostatic testing or that are damaged.

TACOMA FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

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Updated 05.2015



Fire Extinguisher Self-Inspection Program



This self-inspection program is one of two acceptable options for meeting the annual extinguisher inspection requirement of the adopted Fire Code & NFPA 10. This program applies to **dry chemical** extinguishers only. You can follow the procedures in this handout or hire a certified extinguisher company to perform the annual inspection.

To participate in the program you will need to affix self-inspection tags to all of your dry chemical extinguishers. You can print the tags off at our website at cityoftacoma.org/fireextinguishers, or obtain them from fire department personnel during your next annual building inspection.

We encourage you to check with your insurer or other licensing agencies to verify they accept self-inspections.

This program does not include the following required maintenance that shall be performed by a certified fire extinguisher company:

- Recharging if used (even if used a little bit)
- Recharging every six-years from the date of manufacture
- Hydrostatic testing every 12-years from the date of manufacture
- Repairing any damage

Self-Inspection Procedures

1. Verify that the extinguisher is in the proper location with no obstructions to access or visibility.
2. Ensure the gauge shows the extinguisher is fully charged as indicated by the needle pointing to the green area.
3. Check that the pin is present and the retaining seal is intact.
4. Inspect the nozzle and hose by checking for blockage or signs of damage.
5. Invert the extinguisher and shake it to keep the extinguishing agent from compacting.
6. Heft or weigh the extinguisher to verify that it is full. The correct weight is listed on the side of the extinguisher.
7. Inspect the main body of the extinguisher for any visible damage such as rust or dents.
8. Sign your name, and add the month and year that you completed your annual inspection on the self-inspection tag.
9. Make sure to place the extinguisher back into the bracket with the label facing forward.

More information about fire extinguishers, including a video on the annual self-inspection procedures is available on our website at cityoftacoma.org/fireextinguishers.

Dry Chemical Extinguisher



FIRE TACOMA DEPT.		
Fire Extinguisher Annual Self-Inspection		
Month	Year	Inspected By

Month & Year Next Certified Maintenance Due: _____

Extinguisher Self-inspection Tag