



TACOMA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Information Bulletin

Fire Extinguishers

Requirements for Businesses

The type of business and the materials found in the building determines the type of fire extinguisher you need. These also determine where the extinguishers will be located. Here are some general guidelines, for more specifics please call the Fire Prevention Bureau at 253.591.5740.

- **Retail stores, storage facilities, and parking garages** must have a Class 2A10BC fire extinguisher for every 3,000 square feet. There must be at least one extinguisher on every floor. Fire extinguishers must be placed so that people do not have to travel more than 75 feet to reach one.
- **Parking garages** must have a Class 2A10BC fire extinguisher at each pedestrian exit.
- **Office buildings, residential buildings, such as apartments or condominiums, and public assemblies** must have a Class 2A10BC fire extinguisher for every 6,000 square feet. There must be at least one extinguisher on every floor. Fire extinguishers must be placed so that people do not have to travel more than 75 feet to reach one.
- **Boiler Rooms** with oil-fired boilers require a 2A10BC fire extinguisher within 30 feet of the room.
- Retail stores, storage facilities, and garages that have permits for the use/storage of **hazardous materials**, or that have permits for **hazardous processes**, must have fire extinguishers with a minimum rating of 4A40BC. The fire extinguishers must be within 30 feet of each other.
- **Apartments, motels or condominiums with open balconies, or with exits that lead directly to the outside**, may have their extinguishers located in a manager's room, laundry room, storage room, or in exterior break-glass cabinets. This may be done *with the permission* of the Tacoma Fire Department Inspecting Officer.
- **Restaurant kitchens** using vegetable oil or animal fat for cooking must have a Class K extinguisher in the kitchen area, as well as a 2A10BC extinguisher.

Installing Your Extinguisher

If your fire extinguisher weighs less than 40 lbs., mount it so that the top of the extinguisher is no more than 5 feet above the floor. If your fire extinguisher weighs more than 40 lbs., mount it so that the top of the extinguisher is no more than 3½ feet above the floor. Make sure that the bottom of your fire extinguisher is at least 4 inches from the floor.

Fire extinguishers must be placed so that they can be easily seen and are easy to reach. They should be placed where people usually walk.

Annual Testing

Fire extinguishers must be serviced each year. You should look in the yellow pages under fire extinguishers if your extinguisher needs to be serviced.

When the extinguisher technician services your fire extinguisher, they will attach a tag to it to indicate it has been serviced and on what date it is due for its next service. Make sure the tag is permanently attached is up to date.

