



COMMON FINDS: FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

BACKGROUND:

Public entities always seek to provide tools to keep their employees safe, including portable fire extinguishers. OSHA standards highlight the need for employers to ensure fire extinguishers are maintained regularly and can be accessed appropriately. CIRMA Risk Management commonly finds fire extinguishers that are not inspected monthly or are stored improperly during our Facility Hazard Assessments.

OBSERVATION:

Upon completing multiple inspections, it was observed that the fire extinguishers A) needed to have their tags filled out, B) required signage, and C) were unsecured in storage.

RECOMMENDATION:

Regularly annotate the monthly inspection tag, ensure appropriate signage indicates the fire extinguisher's location, and appropriately secure the extinguisher in storage per the OSHA standards listed below.

- **1910.157(e)(2):** Portable extinguishers or hoses used in lieu thereof under paragraph (d)(3) of this section shall be visually inspected monthly
- **1910.157(c)(1):** The employer shall provide portable fire extinguishers and mount, locate, and identify them so that they are readily accessible to employees without posing a possible injury
- **1910.101(b):** The storage of all compressed gases in cylinders shall follow Compressed Gas Association Pamphlet P-1-1965, as specified in Section 1910.6

SOME OTHER TIPS:

- Inspect your portable fire extinguishers and fill out the inspection tag monthly to ensure that:
 - The fire extinguisher is in place and secured
 - The fire extinguisher is charged (the needle is pointing to the green zone)
 - The fire extinguisher pin is in place
- Mount and secure portable fire extinguishers to protect them from the ground, preventing rusting or accidental tipping
- Establish and raise awareness of your entity's portable fire extinguisher policy to staff, highlighting the need for monthly inspections and procedures for taking a portable fire extinguisher out of service

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