

FIRE PREVENTION & PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER POLICY



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INTRODUCTION

REGULATORY AUTHORITY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER POLICY

The Occupational Safety and Health Act under 29 CFR 1926.24 and Subpart F establishes requirements relating to fire prevention and portable fire extinguishers. In response to the regulatory mandate Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. has developed and will maintain a Fire Prevention and Portable Fire Extinguisher Policy to provide proper and safe procedures for all applicable employees.

PURPOSE

This document is primarily intended to outline methods applying to Fire Prevention and Fire Extinguisher placement, use, maintenance, and testing of portable fire extinguishers.

This plan is closely tied to our Emergency Action Plan Policy protocols for contacts, evacuation, employee accounting, rescue and medical duties. In addition, this document is intended to serve as guidelines for employee training.

RESPONSIBILITY **(Management Commitment)**

Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. shall instruct all appropriate employees in the safety significance of this Fire Prevention and Fire Extinguisher Policy. Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. considers these requirements to be of critical importance in helping to ensure that the applicable provisions of this Fire Prevention and Fire Extinguisher Policy are known, understood, and strictly adhered to by all employees.

It shall be the responsibility of Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc.'s Emergency Coordinator to continually monitor the Fire Prevention and Fire Extinguisher Policy to ensure that all the requirements of these procedures are being followed and that, any deviations or inadequacies are corrected.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. has developed and will maintain a written Fire Prevention and Fire Extinguisher Program with the intention of being in compliance with OSHA's 29 CFR 1926.24 and Subpart F. The following operating procedures shall be addressed:

- 1. Fire Extinguisher Placement**
- 2. Required Maintenance**
- 3. Testing Procedures**
- 4. Training and Education**
- 5. Fire Watch**

I. FIRE EXTINGUISHER PLACEMENT

The selection and distribution of Portable Fire Extinguishers has been based on a pre-job review of the possible fire hazards, the classes of anticipated workplace fires and on the size and degree of the hazard, which would affect their use. In addition, Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. has distributed Portable Fire Extinguishers so that the travel distance is 50 feet (15.2 M) or less. Each Fire Extinguisher is mounted and clearly marked so that their location is clearly identifiable and readily accessible. In the event that a potential ignition source is identified and the source is not movable, fire extinguishers and or fire watch will be located within easy access of the source.

II. REQUIRED MAINTENANCE

Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. has implemented and shall maintain a Maintenance Program. All portable fire extinguishers are subject to monthly visual checks and annual maintenance checks. The individual performing said inspection shall initial and date the attached card. In addition, each fire extinguisher shall be inspected in accordance with maintenance and use guidelines set in NFPA No. 10A-1970.

III. TESTING PROCEDURES

Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. shall hydrostatically test all Portable Fire Extinguishers at the intervals listed in the table below and/or any time they show new evidence of corrosion or mechanical failure. The hydrostatic testing will be sub-contracted to trained persons with suitable testing equipment and facilities.

Documentation including the date of test, signature of person performing the test, and identification of the fire extinguisher will be maintained with this policy.

HYDROSTATIC TESTING

Type of Extinguishers	interval (years)
Soda acid (soldered brass shells) (until 1/1/82)	(1)
Soda acid (stainless steel shell)	5
Cartridge operated water and/or antifreeze	5
Stored pressure water and/or antifreeze	5
Wetting agent	5
Foam (soldered brass shells) (until 1/1/82)	(1)
Foam (stainless steel shell)	5
Aqueous Film Forming foam (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
Dry chemical, cartridge or cylinder operated, with mild steel shells	12
Halon 1211	12
Halon 1301	12
Dry powder, cartridge or cylinder operated with mild steel shells	12

IV. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. does not require any employee to perform rescue operations, provide extraordinary medical care or *fight fires*. However, in an effort to provide the safest work atmosphere, Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. has fire extinguishers readily available in case of incipient stage fires. In addition, Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. shall familiarize all employees with the general principles of fire extinguisher use and the hazards involved with incipient safe fire fighting upon initial employment and at least annually thereafter.

The following chart has been provided so you can familiarize yourself with the general principles of fire extinguisher use and the hazards involved with incipient stage fire fighting.

FIRE WATCH POLICY

Whenever there is an operation underway by Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc.'s employees that involves an open flame or the emitting hot sparks, a fire watch will occur. This procedure will involve another employee whose sole responsibility will be to observe the operation to prevent the possibility of a possible fire hazard. The person shall be equipped with an approved fire extinguisher and will be able to address **incipient** stage fires if one should occur. Our intention is the protection of **all employees** and others on the site and to prevent the possibility of fire damage to customer's premises.