

FIRE SAFETY

Supplement to Standard Training Module

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS OVERVIEW

This standard Vivid training module provides a general overview of Fire Safety and the use of Portable Fire Extinguishers. It is important to note that facilities **must** have their own site specific emergency action plans, fire prevention plans and any other emergency plans in place.

In addition to the general overview, employees ***must*** to receive facility-specific information. This additional training ***must*** cover:

- The location of fire extinguishers in the workplace
- General principles of operation of fire extinguishers used in the workplace
- Hazards associated with incipient stage fire fighting in the facility
- Responsibilities for use of fire extinguishers
- Alarms or system to alert employees of a fire emergency
- Evacuation and safe harbor plans

This module should be completed in conjunction with the training module entitled “Emergency Response” to provide the employee with a thorough understanding of the facility’s entire emergency plan and employee alarm systems.

Frequency: This training ***must*** be provided upon initial employment, and annually thereafter.

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE STANDARD

Portable Fire Extinguishers – 29 CFR 1910.157

PURPOSE: To ensure the continued and readily accessible availability of and safe handling and use of portable fire extinguishers.

1. SCOPE: Applies to all facilities covered under OSHA's Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry.
2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS: Requirements are stated for portable fire extinguishers for:
 - Location, mounting, and identification so that they are readily accessible to employees
 - Maintenance in a fully charged and operable condition
3. SELECTION AND DISTRIBUTION: Requires portable fire extinguishers to be selected and distributed based on the classes of anticipated workplace fires and on the size and/or degree of the potential hazard.
4. INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE AND TESTING: Requirements are stated for employer fire extinguisher responsibilities, including :
 - Inspection
 - Maintenance
 - Testing

Monthly Inspections – visually inspected monthly

Annual Inspection – annual maintenance check. Annual inspections must be documented and maintained for inspection

5. HYDROSTATIC TESTING: Hydrostatic testing requirements and testing frequencies are detailed in the standard. Hydrotesting intervals are based upon the type of fire extinguisher.
6. TRAINING AND EDUCATION: Training is required initially upon employment and at least annually thereafter. Training must include:
 - General principles of fire extinguisher use
 - Hazards involved with incipient stage fire fighting

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Publications

How to Plan for Workplace Emergencies and Evacuations

Publication # 3088

Can be downloaded at: <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/Osha3088.pdf>

Fire Safety
Training Module Supplement

Website

OSHA website:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/firesafety/index.html>