

## Fire Extinguisher Inspection and Maintenance



Fire extinguishers are a critical first line of defense in the event of a fire emergency. To ensure they function properly when needed, regular inspections and maintenance are essential. This guide outlines the key types of fire extinguisher inspections, monthly visual checks, annual maintenance inspections, and periodic internal maintenance, each with specific requirements and responsibilities. Following these guidelines helps maintain compliance with fire safety regulations and supports a safer workplace for all employees.

### Visual Inspections – Once Per Month

**Frequency:** At least once a month

**Purpose:** To confirm that each extinguisher is accessible, undamaged, and fully operational

**What to Look For:**

- The extinguisher is in its designated location and clearly visible
- No signs of physical damage such as dents, corrosion, or leakage
- The pressure gauge needle is within the operable (green) range
- The pull-pin is intact and secured with a tamper seal
- The last professional inspection date is current
- The inspection tag is dated and initialed by the employee conducting the check

### Maintenance Inspections – Once Per Year

**Frequency:** Annually

**Purpose:** A comprehensive inspection performed by a certified fire protection professional

**What to Expect:**

- A licensed technician will examine all components for wear, damage, and compliance
- If the extinguisher passes, it will receive a new inspection tag valid for one year
- If it fails, it must be repaired or replaced immediately

### Internal Maintenance Inspections – Every 5, 6, or 12 Years

**Frequency:** Every 5, 6, or 12 years, depending on the extinguisher type

**Purpose:** A detailed internal examination and performance test to ensure long-term reliability

**What to Expect:**

- The extinguisher is fully discharged and opened for internal inspection
- It is recharged or replaced as needed
- Certain types, such as dry chemical extinguishers, require hydrostatic testing every 12 years and an internal examination every 6 years
- All work must be performed by a certified fire protection company

### Stay Compliant, Stay Safe

Regular inspection and maintenance of fire extinguishers are not just regulatory requirements; they are critical to workplace safety. By following the inspection schedule and promptly addressing any issues, agency employees help ensure that extinguishers are ready to perform when needed, protecting both people and property.