

# Fire Extinguishers – Care & Maintenance

As you can never know when a fire will occur, it is important to know that fire extinguishers will operate correctly if/when needed. Therefore, regular inspections and maintenance should be performed to give maximum assurance that an extinguisher will operate effectively and safely.

## Regular Inspections:

As part of the pre-trip inspection, the fire extinguisher(s) should be checked. At this time, you should ensure that:

- The extinguisher is properly and securely mounted and easily accessible. It should not be blocked by other equipment or objects that would hinder access in an emergency.
- The pressure is at the recommended level.
- The pin and tamper seal are still in place.
- The nozzle, hose and other parts are not hindered.
- There are no signs of abuse/wear (i.e. dents, leaks, rust, etc.).

NOTE: Fire extinguishers should pass this visual inspection before operating a power unit. If the extinguisher is not charged to the appropriate level or shows signs of damage, replace it *immediately*.

If you have a dry chemical fire extinguisher, it is recommended that you shake the extinguisher periodically (i.e. monthly) to prevent the powder from settling and packing.

## Regular Maintenance:

A more thorough examination of fire extinguishers should be conducted at regular intervals, at which time pressure testing (hydrostatic testing) can be performed to ensure the cylinder is safe to use. A closer inspection of the overall unit may reveal issues a visual inspection would not detect and necessary repairs can be made or the extinguisher can be recharged or replaced if necessary.

**NOTE: Extinguishers should be recharged *immediately* after any amount of use.**