

Encinitas Fire Prevention  
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## **FIRE EXTINGUISHER REQUIREMENTS**

The 2001 California Fire Code Section 1002 requires fire extinguishers to be properly located, properly maintained, and available to occupants in every commercial building. Fire extinguishers should be located along normal paths of travel. Each extinguisher is **REQUIRED TO BE MOUNTED** with the top of the extinguisher no more than 5 feet off the floor and the bottom at least 4 inches off the floor. It is important to note that fire extinguishers are highly pressurized containers. Any damage to the valve assembly area can create a dangerous flying projectile. For this reason extinguishers must be mounted on a wall or other structure with an approved mounting device. Fire extinguishers placed on counters, desks or floors are not in compliance with code requirements. The nature of a building occupancy and the activities taking place inside determines the type, size, and number of fire extinguishers necessary. In most facilities the minimum rating fire extinguisher required is a **2A10BC**. **Special Hazards may require compatible extinguishers for the hazard.**

**When 2A10BC fire extinguishers are used the travel distance for occupants to an extinguisher is not to exceed 75 feet.** Facilities where 2A10BC extinguishers are most commonly used include – office buildings, markets, schools, retail stores, medical offices, and other similar occupancies. Some facilities are required to have additional extinguishers over and above the 2A10BC extinguisher.

It is important to remember that 2A10BC rated fire extinguishers are the lowest rated fire extinguisher permitted in any commercial occupancy. Extinguishers with ratings of 1A5BC or 20BC do not meet the minimum requirements established by national standards for commercial use.

Restaurants, for example, require a fire extinguisher with a 40B rating within 30 feet of all kitchen equipment. Some kitchen fire protection systems require specialized fire extinguishers such as a TYPE “K” extinguisher.

Fuel dispensing operations require a minimum size 40BC fire extinguisher within 75 feet of dispensing devices.

Areas containing oxidizing materials (swimming pool and spa chemical storage areas) require a BC type fire extinguisher. Class ABC and Halon fire extinguishers are not recommended in these areas.

**No matter what type of occupancy you are in, all fire extinguishers must receive an annual inspection from an independent contractor or company. The City of Encinitas Fire Department personnel will not perform inspections of any extinguisher. If a new extinguisher is purchased the blank inspection tag provided in the original box must be attached to the extinguisher, and a copy of the purchase receipt shall be available upon request.**

Our responsibility is to verify that fire extinguishers are properly placed, properly maintained, and available for use should the need occur. Please take the time to insure all fire extinguishers in the building meet the minimum fire code requirements.

Annual inspections must be documented and include; a visual check of the pressure gage, verification of operating instructions visibility, an examination for any physical damages, and the weight checked to determine fullness. Every six years extinguishers are required to have a hydrostatic pressure test.






### **PROPER USE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

It is important to remember that fire extinguishers are designed for use on **SMALLER FIRES**. Examples of small fires the typical office building extinguisher may effectively control include small trash can fires, stove top grease fires, and small electrical appliance fires, such as, coffee makers. Never put yourself into a dangerous situation attempting to extinguish a fire. Evacuate the area, close doors if applicable and call 9-1-1. Completion of these vital tasks will assist fire department efforts tremendously.

If you have specific questions regarding fire extinguishers or any other fire safety issues please contact the **Encinitas Fire Prevention Bureau** at (760) 633-2820.

## Fire Extinguishers

- Note the locations in your work area
- Familiarize yourself with functions of the extinguisher
- Learn your escape routes
- Know your capabilities to control or extinguish a fire
- Evacuate to safe area and call 911
- Know the right usage of the extinguisher

	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D	Class K
	Ordinary Combustibles	Flammable Liquids	Electrical Equipment	Combustible Metals	Cooking Media
	A Trash-Wood-Paper 	B Liquids 	C Electrical Equip. 	Combustible Metals 	K Cooking Media 
<b>Antifreeze</b>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>
<b>Carbon Dioxide</b>	<i>No (but will control small fires)</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>
<b>Dry Chemical-Regular</b>	<i>No (but will control Textile surface fires)</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes *</i>
<b>Dry Chemical-Multipurpose</b>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<b>Dry Compound!</b>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>
<b>Wet Chemical</b>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>*Verify extinguisher is rated for this hazard.</i>					