



Coffee Break Training - Fire Protection Series

Portable Extinguishers: Documenting Hydrostatic Tests

No. FP-2014-7 February 18, 2014

Learning Objective: The student will be able to identify the means for documenting hydrostatic test dates for portable fire extinguishers.

Portable fire extinguishers must be tested periodically to ensure that they will withstand the internal pressure from the fire extinguishing agent and/or expellant gas. (See Coffee Break Training FP-2010-9 for test frequency.)

Once the test is completed successfully, the results must be marked on the fire extinguisher for ready reference. Depending upon the type of cylinder, the record may be stamped on a high-pressure cylinder or have a permanent label applied to a low-pressure cylinder. (See Coffee Break Training FP-2010-3 for an explanation of the different cylinder types.)

According to National Fire Protection Association 10, *Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers*, the labeling requirements are as follows.

- Low-pressure cylinders that pass a hydrostatic test should be provided with a label that includes:
 - Month and year that the test was performed, as indicated by a perforation, such as is done by a hand punch.
 - Test pressure used.
 - Name or initials of the person performing the test and name of the agency performing the test.
- The label should:
 - Be sized at a minimum of 2 inches by 3 1/2 inches (51 millimeters by 89 millimeters).
 - Be affixed by a heatless process.
 - Self-destruct when removed from a fire extinguisher cylinder shell.
 - Be made of a durable, weatherproof material with a pressure-sensitive adhesive.
- High-pressure cylinders or cartridges that pass the hydrostatic test should be stamped with the retester's identification number and the month and year of the retest per Department of Transportation/Transport Canada requirements.
 - Stamping should be located only on the shoulder, top, head, neck or foot ring (where provided) of the cylinder or in accordance with 49 Code of Federal Regulations 180.213(c)(1).



This label is the authorized method for documenting hydrostatic testing of a low-pressure cylinder.

For additional information and resources on portable fire extinguishers, visit the Coffee Break Training website, http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/coffee-break/issue_index.shtm, and filter for “portable extinguishers.”



Eligible for Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

at www.usfa.fema.gov/nfaonline

For archived downloads, go to:

www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/coffee-break/