



Firefighting Equipment Inspection Requirements

Firefighting equipment shall be

- of the right type, size, and quantity
- able to extinguish any class of fire which may occur as a result of the hazards present
- strategically located, readily accessible, plainly marked
- maintained in fire-ready condition

30 CFR §56/57.4201 Inspection.

Fire extinguishers

- Inspect monthly to ensure they are fully charged and operable
- Perform yearly maintenance checks of the mechanical parts, the extinguishing agent and expellant (amount and condition), and the condition of the hose, nozzle, and vessel
- Conduct hydrostatic testing according to Table C-1 or based on the manufacturer's specifications to determine the integrity of agent vessels

Water pipes, valves, outlets, hydrants, and hoses that are part of the mine's firefighting system

- Visually inspect every three months for damage or deterioration
- Use-test yearly to determine that they remain operational

Fire suppression systems

- Perform a yearly inspection based on the manufacturer's specifications
- Inspect individual components of a system
- Surface fire suppression systems are exempt from these inspection requirements if the systems are used solely for the protection of property and no persons would be affected by a fire
- For Mobile Equipment reference MSHA guidance on Mobile Equipment FPS
 - <https://www.msha.gov/news-media/special-initiatives/2018/10/04/fire-suppression-system-initiative>

At the completion of each inspection/test:

- The inspector shall certify that the inspection/test has been made
- Certifications of hydrostatic testing shall be retained until the fire extinguisher is retested or permanently removed from service
- Other certifications shall be retained for one year



TABLE C-1—HYDROSTATIC TEST INTERVALS FOR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Extinguisher type	Test interval (years)
Soda Acid	5
Cartridge-Operated Water and/or Antifreeze	5
Stored-Pressure Water and/or Antifreeze	5
Wetting Agent	5
Foam	5
AFFF (Aqueous Film Forming Foam)	5
Loaded Stream	5
Dry-Chemical with Stainless Steel Shells	5
Carbon Dioxide	5
Dry-Chemical, Stored Pressure, with Mild Steel Shells, Brazed Brass Shells, or Aluminum Shells	12
Dry-Chemical, Cartridge or Cylinder Operated, with Mild Steel Shells	12
Bromotrifluoromethane-Halon 1301	12
Bromochlorodifluoromethane-Halon 1211	12
Dry-Powder, Cartridge or Cylinder-Operated, with Mild Steel Shells ¹	12

¹ Except for stainless steel and steel used for compressed gas cylinders, all other steel shells are defined as "mild steel" shells.

For additional information regarding Firefighting Equipment Inspection visit <https://arlweb.msha.gov/STATS/Top20Viols/tips/4201.htm>