NFPA Perspective on Extinguishers

Mark Conroy
Senior Engineer
NFPA

2007 Edition of NFPA 10

- Clarification on Occupancy Classifications
- Technician Certification
- Electronic Monitoring
- Obsolete Extinguishers
- High-flow Extinguishers
- New Format

NFPA 10

- Not a "Stand-Alone" Document
- Referenced (Required) by Building Code or Occupancy Standard:

"Install portable fire extinguishers in accordance with NFPA 10"

- Selection, Placement, and Servicing

Selection

- Classify Hazard – Light, Ordinary, or Extra
- Determine Hazard for A, B, C Fires
- Selection for Specific Hazard (e.g. Class K)

Placement for Class A

- Class A (NFPA 10, Table 6.2.1.1)
  - Minimum Rated Unit (Light, Ordinary, Extra)
  - Maximum Floor Area per Unit of "A"
  - Maximum Travel Distance to Extinguisher
    - **75 FT Travel Distance**

Travel Distance

Actual Walking Distance From Any Point to the Nearest Extinguisher

Concepts

- Readily Available
- Sufficient Numbers
- Adequate Extinguishing Capacity
- Staff Familiar with Operation

Concepts – Travel Distance

- Travel From Fire to Obtain Extinguisher
- Return to the Fire
- Pull Pin, Aim, Squeeze
- Fire Has Grown and Now is Suppressed

Travel Distance

- Not Simple Circle/Radius
- Actual Walking Distance
- Measured from Any Point to Extinguisher
- Affected By:
  - Partitions, Walls, Aisles
  - Locations of Doorways
  - Piles of Storage
  - File Cabinets, Stages, etc.

Placement Class B

- Two Sizes for Each – Light, Ordinary, Extra
- Travel Distance – 30 and 50 Feet
- Class B Criteria is used Where an ABC Extinguisher is Needed

Placement Class C

- Energized Electrical Equipment
- No Travel Distance Criteria (Use Class A or B Criteria)

Servicing

- Periodic Inspection, Maintenance, and Hydrostatic Testing
- Helps Ensure Reliability

Training

- Show Video – Fight or Flight
- Provide Classroom Instruction
- Hands-On Demonstration (Fire or No-Fire?)
- Periodic Refresher (Every Couple Years)

Mark Conroy
Senior Engineer
NFPA

mconroy@nfpa.org