FIRE EXTINGUISHERS (ABC, PURPLE K, CO2)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Fire extinguishers should be maintained in good condition so that they can be refilled instead of disposed after they are discharged or depressurized. All portable fire extinguishers should be inspected and maintained at least annually. Keep fire extinguishers out of the elements. Effects of the rain and sun on canisters will quickly cause rust and compromise the integrity of the extinguisher. If an extinguisher is showing signs of corrosion on the base or any welds, UV damage to the head caps or is missing parts it should not be used.

WASTE CHARACTERIZATION

The contents of ABC, Purple K and CO2 fire extinguishers are non-hazardous. Empty, depressurized fire extinguisher cylinders may be recycled as scrap metal, however, purging and disposing of fire extinguishers in-house is not authorized. The dry chemical contained in fire extinguishers is corrosive and pose a health hazard.

HANDLING AND DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

1. Fire extinguishers purchasing, servicing and disposal is each Unit/Organization's responsibility. Fire extinguishers should be refilled as an alternative to disposal whenever possible.

2. If the fire extinguishers cannot be refilled and need to be disposed, Units/Organizations should contact a local vendor and use their GPC card to for the disposal of less than 125 fire extinguishers. The unit is responsible for selecting a provider for this service and while the Army does not endorse any particular company, you may contact the DPW Environmental Division for a list of local vendors who provide this service. Prices will vary depending on the type and number of extinguishers, so it will be up to the unit to find the best value.

3. A one-time contract will need to be established for the disposal of more than 125 fire extinguishers. Contact the DPW Environmental Division SEM Program for assistance with establishing this contract.

For more info contact: DPW Environmental Division SEM Program or the Installation Safety Office.