

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

GENERAL INFORMATION

A variety of different fire extinguishers are present on the installation including ABC, Purple K, CO₂, and Halon.

WASTE CHARACTERIZATION

Halons are used as fire extinguishing agents, both in built-in systems and in handheld portable fire extinguishers. Halon production in the U.S. ended on December 31, 1993, because they contribute to ozone depletion. Under the Clean Air Act the content of halon fire extinguishers must be recycled. If your unit finds or has any halon fire extinguishers please contact the DPW Environmental Division Clean Air Program. These extinguishers should **NOT** be used. The Clean Air Program will handle the paperwork and procedures for recycling these extinguishers.

HANDLING AND DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

Standard Guidance Recommends:

1. Currently, fire extinguishers must be serviced and/or disposed of through a private contractor. This means that the unit must contact the contractor and pay for the service or disposal on its own. The unit is responsible for selecting a provider for this service and the Army does not endorse any particular company. Prices will vary depending on the type and number of extinguishers, so it will be up to the unit to find the best value.
2. All portable fire extinguishers should be inspected and maintained at least annually.
3. Access should be maintained at all times to all portable fire extinguishers. This is commonly interpreted to mean a clear and unobstructed path of approximately 2 to 3 feet in width. A sign or symbol should also be posted above the unit to indicate the presence of the unit. In addition, each extinguisher should be mounted at approximately 3' above the ground.
4. The fire extinguishers should be appropriate to fight the type of fire that may occur in the area where they are located.
5. Keep fire extinguishers out of the elements. The 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.



For more info contact: DPW Environmental Clean Air Program or the Installation Safety Office.