

## **WOOSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT DEPARTMENTAL OPERATING GUIDELINES**

**DATE: 09/16/2004**

### **REQUIREMENT FOR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

#### **PURPOSE**

To outline the requirements and appropriate locations for fire extinguishers in both new and existing occupancies.

#### **SCOPE**

According to the City Fire Code which adopts requirements in the Ohio Fire Code, all occupancies in the City of Wooster (except one- and two-family dwellings) are required to have fire extinguishers mounted in readily accessible and visible locations. Prior to receiving a Certificate of Occupancy, new buildings shall have fire extinguishers mounted in locations approved by the Fire Marshal's office. The fire extinguishers shall be inspected on an annual basis.

#### **REQUIREMENTS**

##### **1. General Requirement:**

All businesses and residential occupancies, other than one- and two-family residences, are required to have at least one multi-purpose (Class ABC) fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 2A:10BC. The extinguisher/s must be located in a readily accessible and visible location, preferably along normal paths of travel, adjacent to exits.

##### **2. Number of Extinguishers Required:**

a. For light (low) hazard occupancies (examples: offices, classrooms, assembly halls), one 2A:10BC fire extinguisher for each 6,000 sq ft of floor area. Maximum travel distance to an extinguisher is 75 feet.

b. For ordinary (moderate) hazard occupancies (examples: dining areas, mercantile shops, storage areas, light manufacturing), one 2A:10BC fire extinguisher for each 3,000 sq ft of floor area. Maximum travel distance to an extinguisher is 75 feet.

c. For extra (high) hazard structures (examples: automotive repair, processes or storage involving flammable/combustible liquids, woodworking), one 4A:40BC fire extinguisher for each 4,000 sq ft of floor area. Maximum travel distance to an extinguisher is 30 feet.

##### **3. Location of Extinguishers:**

In general, locations for fire extinguishers should be selected that will:

- a. Provide uniform distribution;
- b. Provide easy accessibility;
- c. Be relatively free from blocking by storage and equipment or both;

- d. Be near normal paths of travel;
- e. Be near entrance and exit doors;
- f. Be free from the potential of physical damage;
- g. Be readily visible or appropriately signed;
- h. Be installed on a floor-by-floor basis.

#### 4. Fire Extinguisher Size and Placement for Cooking Grease Fires:

An approved portable fire extinguisher having a K rating shall be installed within 30 feet of commercial food heat-processing equipment, as measured along an unobstructed path of travel.

#### 5. Mounting Requirements:

Fire extinguishers shall be mounted so that portable fire extinguishers having a gross weight not exceeding 40 pounds shall be installed so that its top is not more than 5 feet above the floor. Hand-held fire extinguishers having a gross weight exceeding 40 pounds shall be installed so that its top is not more than 3.5 feet above the floor. The clearance between the floor and the bottom of the installed extinguisher shall not be less than 4 inches.

Fire extinguishers shall be installed on the hangers or in brackets supplied, or mounted in a cabinet. Cabinets housing extinguishers shall not be locked, or shall include a means of emergency access if conditions necessitate that they be locked. Extinguishers mounted in cabinets or wall recesses shall be placed in a manner such that the extinguisher operating instructions face outward. The location of such extinguishers shall be marked with appropriate signage, so that location can be quickly identified.