



Aurora Fire Department Life Safety Division

Safety Bulletin

Portable Fire Extinguisher Requirements For Commercial Buildings

The Aurora Fire Department provides this information as a public service with the intent of improving safety within the city of Aurora and "ensuring a safe community". This bulletin is intended to provide general information related to fire extinguisher requirements for commercial buildings, and is not designed nor can be relied upon to completely cover all situations. Your safety can best be assured through continued personal vigilance, education and diligence.

The information provided in this safety bulletin is provided by the efforts of the Aurora Fire Department while referencing NFPA 10 Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers. More detailed and in depth information can be attained by acquiring an actual copy of NFPA 10. Fire Extinguisher use, installation, maintenance and precautions should follow NFPA 10 as well as all manufacturer guidelines. Should information contained in this bulletin differ from either NFPA 10 or manufacturer guidelines, please defer to the standard or guidelines for definitive guidance.

Buildings must be classified according to their hazard classification before the minimum size portable fire extinguisher requirement can be determined.

Examples of each class of hazard include occupancies that have conditions similar to:

Light Hazard:

Churches	Educational
Hospitals	Theaters
Offices	Residential
Restaurant seating area	Retail sales

Ordinary Hazard:

Automobile Parking Garages	Bakeries
Paper and Pulp Mills	Distilleries
Printing and Publishing	Feed Mills
Restaurant Kitchens (40 BC)*	Laundries
Tire Manufacturing	Machine Shops
Warehouses	

Note:

904.11.5 Commercial cooking equipment
Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided within a 30-foot travel distance of commercial type cooking equipment. Cooking equipment involving vegetable or animal oils and fats shall be protected by a Class K rated portable extinguisher.

Extra Hazard:

Chemical Plants	Solvent Cleaning
Dry Cleaning Plants	Upholstery With Plastic Foam
Flammable Liquid Spraying	Varnish and Paint Chipping
Metalworking	Woodworking
Repair Garages	Saw Mills
Printing (using inks with below 100 degree flash point)	

Utilize the following table to determine the proper minimum fire extinguisher size:

Type of Hazard	Minimum Size Portable Extinguisher	Maximum Travel Distance
Light Hazard (Low)	2A 10BC	75 Feet
Ordinary Hazard (Moderate)	2A 20BC or 2A 40BC	75 Feet
Extra Hazard (High)	4A 40BC up to a 4A 80BC	75 Feet

Note:

Fire extinguishers are recommended for, but not required, in R-3 occupancies (private dwellings). A maximum travel distance of 50 Feet is **recommended** for all fire extinguisher applications with the exception of 30 Foot commercial cooking equipment requirement.

Information provided by the Aurora, Colorado Fire Department
