

## PROVIDE/MOUNT FIRE EXTINGUISHER AS INDICATED

Violation #13

### CODE SECTIONS

*International Fire Code 2012 Edition*

**906.1 Where required.** Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed in the following locations.

1. In new and existing Group A, B, E, F, H, I, M, R-1, R-2, R-4 and S occupancies.

**Exception:** In Group R-2 occupancies, portable fire extinguishers shall be required only in locations specified in Items 2 through 6 where each *dwelling unit* is provided with a portable fire extinguisher having a minimum rating of 1-A:10-B:C.

2. Within 30 feet (9144 mm) of commercial cooking equipment.
3. In areas where flammable or *combustible liquids* are stored, used or dispensed.
4. On each floor of structures under construction, except Group R-3 occupancies, in accordance with Section 3315.1.
5. Where required by the sections indicated in Table 906.1.
6. Special-hazard areas, including but not limited to laboratories, computer rooms and generator rooms, where required by the *fire code official*.

**906.2 General requirements.** Portable fire extinguishers shall be selected, installed and maintained in accordance with this section and NFPA 10.

**906.5 Conspicuous location.** Portable fire extinguishers shall be located in conspicuous locations where they will be readily accessible and immediately available for use. These locations shall be along normal paths of travel, unless the *fire code official* determines that the hazard posed indicates the need for placement away from normal paths of travel.

**906.6 Unobstructed and unobscured.** Fire extinguishers shall not be obstructed or obscured from view. In rooms or areas in which visual obstruction cannot be completely avoided, means shall be provided to indicate the locations of extinguishers.

**906.7 Hangers and brackets.** Hand-held portable fire extinguishers, not housed in cabinets, shall be installed on the hangers or brackets supplied. Hangers or brackets shall be securely anchored to the mounting surface in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

**906.8 Cabinets.** Cabinets used to house fire extinguishers shall not be locked.

**Exceptions:**

1. Where fire extinguishers subject to malicious use or damage are provided with a means of ready access.
2. In Group I-3 occupancies and in mental health areas in Group I-2 occupancies, access to portable fire extinguishers shall be permitted to be locked or to be located in staff locations provided the staff has keys.

**906.9 Extinguisher installation.** The installation of portable fire extinguishers shall be in accordance with Section 906.9.1 through 906.9.3.

**906.9.1 Extinguishers weighing 40 pounds or less.** Portable fire extinguishers having a gross weight not exceeding 40 pounds (18 kg) shall be installed so that their tops are not more than 5 feet (1524 mm) above the floor.

**906.9.2 Extinguishers weighing more than 40 pounds.** Hand-held portable fire extinguishers having a gross weight exceeding 40 pounds (18 kg) shall be installed so that their tops are not more than 3.5 feet (1067 mm) above the floor.

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Violation #13 (cont.)

**906.9.3 Floor clearance.** The clearance between the floor and the bottom of installed hand-held portable fire extinguishers shall not be less than 4 inches (102 mm).

### EXPLANATION

All businesses in this jurisdiction are required to install and maintain at a minimum one-2A10BC fire extinguisher mounted in an approved manner in an approved location. Commercial kitchens are also required to install and maintain a 40 BC fire extinguisher within 30 feet of the commercial-type cooking equipment. A Class K rated portable extinguisher is required where a type I kitchen hood is in use. Automatic fire-extinguishing system for commercial cooking systems shall be serviced and tagged semi-annually.

Additional, larger or different extinguishing agent fire extinguishers may be required in some occupancies due to special fire hazards.

The vast majority of fire extinguishers shall be located so that the top of the extinguisher is between 3-1/2 feet and 5 feet from the floor. No extinguisher can be mounted so that the bottom is closer than 4 inches off the ground.

Fire extinguishers should be located in a normal exit path, preferably by an exit door. The fire extinguisher shall also be readily visible and accessible. If, due to large rooms or other room configurations, it is not possible to locate the fire extinguisher on an exit path where it is easily seen, signs must be installed that indicate the location of the fire extinguisher.

### RATIONALE

Fire extinguishers are designed to extinguish a fire in its earliest and thus smallest phase. In order to do this, the fire extinguisher must be easily obtained. Obstructions to accessing the fire extinguisher could significantly delay its deployment thus allowing the fire to continue to grow causing more fire damage and risk to life. The fire extinguisher should be located with the top between 3-1/2 and 5 feet off the floor so that the extinguisher can be easily released from its mounting mechanism. The heavier the extinguisher, the closer to the floor it should be installed making it easier to lift. It also should be at least 4 inches off the floor so the fire extinguisher will not be knocked over when cleaning the floor and also to help keep moisture from reaching the extinguisher. All fire extinguishers shall be mounted on an approved hanger to help ensure that it will not become dislodged and fall to the ground. Your fire extinguisher is under high pressure. Falling to the ground could shear the top off the unit causing significant damage and possible injury.

The size and type fire extinguisher is dependent on the amount and type of fire expected at your business. A 2A10BC fire extinguisher is suitable for most businesses without severe fire risks.