Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguisher must be carried on each vehicle transporting fuel or other hazardous materials. The required size of the extinguisher depends on the amount of hazardous materials being transported and the capacity of any tank that is being used.

If the amount of hazardous materials being transported is less than 1,001 pounds or the tank capacity is 119 gallons or less:
• A minimum of one 5–B:C or two 4–B:C fire extinguishers must be carried on the transport vehicle.

If 1,001 pounds or more of hazardous materials are being transported or the tank is larger than 119 gallons:
• A minimum of one 10–B:C (figures 35a and 35b) fire extinguisher must be carried on the transport vehicle.

Monthly inspections—OSHA requires that fire extinguishers be visually inspected monthly by facility personnel (who check the recharge dial and make sure that the pin is in place). Typically, this information is documented on the back of the annual inspection tag or on an additional tag.

Annual inspections—OSHA requires that fire extinguishers be inspected annually by certified personnel. This inspection checks the condition of a variety of the extinguisher’s components including, but not limited to:
• Whether the hose is in good condition
• Whether the extinguishing agent needs to be replaced
• Whether the extinguisher is due for hydrostatic testing

The annual inspection date must be recorded and maintained for at least 1 year. Typically, this information is documented on a tag (figure 36) or sticker secured to the fire extinguisher.

Figures 35a and 35b—A 10–B:C fire extinguisher (35a) and the label (35b) showing that the fire extinguisher is UL listed and that it is rated 10–B:C.
Training is required for all employees who transport, prepare for transport, load and unload, or are responsible for the safety of hazardous materials that are being transported, such as gasoline, mixed gas, drip-torch fuel, and diesel. The type of training required depends on the amount of hazardous materials being transported.

All training must be completed. [Note: Effective date of training—June 2010.]

**OSHA Hazard Communication Training**
All employees who transport, prepare for transport, load and unload, or are responsible for the safety of hazardous materials that are being transported must complete OSHA Hazard Communication training.

**DOT Materials of Trade Training To Transport Small Amounts of Hazardous Materials**
If fuel is being transported in containers 8 gallons or smaller and the total weight of hazardous materials being transported is 440 pounds or less, employees must have the DOT Materials of Trade training.

A training program designed specifically for Federal land-management agencies is expected to be developed by the Forest Service during Fiscal Year 2011. A thorough reading and understanding of the following topics will fulfill the DOT Materials of Trade training requirement until a formal training program is adopted:
- Identification of common hazardous materials, such as fuels, propane, and plastic spheres filled with potassium permanganate and their associated hazards.
- Container requirements including:
  - Approved containers (page 7)
  - Labeling and marking requirements (page 16)
- Inspection for damage and leakage (page 26, 30, 33, 36, 37, 39, 41, 43)
- Size limitations (maximum size is 8 gallons)
- Weight limitations (maximum weight is 440 pounds for all hazardous materials)
- Requirements to secure containers so they cannot move, protecting them from damage (page 26, 31, 33, 36, 38, 40, 42, 43)
- Identification of materials that should not be transported with liquid fuels (page 20)

**Training To Transport Large Amounts of Hazardous Materials**
When fuel is transported in any container larger than 8 gallons or when the total weight of hazardous materials being transported is more than 440 pounds, regardless of container size, employees must have additional training. This training consists of general awareness/familiarization, function-specific, safety, security awareness, and driver training. Before handling or transporting gasoline, mixed gas, or drip-torch fuel, DOT regulations require that they:
- Attend this training
- Pass a test
- Be certified

For transporting diesel, this additional training is required only for drivers transporting tanks larger than 119 gallons.

Here’s a little background about each component of the additional training:
- General awareness/familiarization training acquaints employees with the general requirements of the DOT regulations and enables them to recognize and identify hazardous materials.
- Function-specific training addresses the requirements of the DOT regulations and exemptions that apply directly to the tasks employees are performing.
- Safety training provides employees with the emergency response information required by DOT regulations, measures needed to protect them from the hazards of the
Training materials they will be exposed to, and methods and procedures for avoiding accidents.

- Security awareness training identifies security risks associated with handling hazardous materials and methods designed to enhance transportation security. This training also covers how to recognize and respond to possible security threats.

- Driver training includes:
  — Pretrip safety inspections
  — Use of vehicle controls and equipment
  — Vehicle operation
  — Procedures for maneuvering at tunnels, bridges, and railroad crossings
  — Times when the driver must be present at the vehicle
  — Procedures for loading and unloading materials
  — Specialized requirements for tanks

The requirement for driver training can be met by obtaining a CDL with a hazardous materials or tank endorsement. For drivers who do not need a CDL, driver training must be taken as a separate course.

Training programs required by other Federal or international agencies, such as OSHA Hazard Communication training or Environmental Protection Agency training, may be used to satisfy the referenced training requirements if the training addresses the elements listed. Until a training program is designed specifically for Federal land management agencies, training is available from the DOT training center in Oklahoma City and from commercial vendors.

Refresher Training
Employees must receive applicable training at least once every 3 years.

Training Records
Keep records of each employee’s training history for the previous 3 years. Retain these records for 90 days beyond the last date of the employee’s employment. Training records shall include:

- Employee’s name
- Date of most recent training
- Description, copy, or location of materials used during training
- Name and address of trainer
- Certification of training