



# FIRE WIRE

July 2006

A supplement to *Firewatch!* magazine

## IN THIS ISSUE

Survey Information ..... 1

NFPA 10 Update ..... 1

Iowa Code Chapter 100 (C) ..... 1

Federal Regulations ..... 2

Computer Based Testing Now Available ..... 3

Calendar of Events ..... 4

## Surveys Enclosed!

Enclosed with this newsletter are two new surveys that NAFED is issuing regarding fire incident reports (extinguisher use) and internal inspection findings. These surveys may also be completed on line at [www.nafed.org/surveys](http://www.nafed.org/surveys). Those of you who attended NAFED's conferences this year heard that we need this information so we can defend the importance of fire extinguishers and their proper maintenance.

Several codes have removed the requirements for fire extinguishers in certain occupancies and severely reduced the maintenance requirements for certain extinguishers. When asked why this was happening, one code group stated that they do not have data that says fire extinguishers are effective.

Therefore, NAFED is undertaking data collection regarding the effectiveness of fire extinguishers and six-year maintenance. The collected data will be tabulated by an independent source and the information released when a sufficient number of responses are collected.

It is imperative that every NAFED member and fire equipment service firm participates in these surveys. Without this information we cannot prove that fire extinguishers are an extremely valuable tool in saving lives and protecting property when incipient stage fires are involved.

No one else collects this data or provides any reports that fire extinguishers are being used and working because they are properly maintained. The reporting systems that fire departments use to

*(Continued on page 4)*

## NFPA 10 Update

At the NFPA Annual Meeting's Technical Committee Report the 2006 Edition of NFPA 10, *Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers*, was adopted by the NFPA membership. The standard still has to be accepted by the NFPA Standards Committee in July before it will be released for print. The 2006 Edition should be available this fall. In past newsletters and at our sectional conferences, we have provided information on the various changes that are being incorporated in the 2006 Edition. Here are some of them:

1. The standard has been reorganized and a new Chapter 4, General Requirements, has been added.
2. The following fire extinguishers have been added to the obsolete list and should be removed from service: pressurized water extinguishers manufactured prior to 1971; any inverting extinguisher; any stored pressure extinguisher manufactured prior to 1955; any extinguisher with 4B, 6B, 8B, 12B, and 16B ratings and any extinguisher that can no longer be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's manual.
3. Dry chemical extinguishers manufactured prior to October 1984 shall be removed from service at the next 6-year maintenance interval or next hydrotest interval, whichever comes first.
4. New minimum requirements for extinguisher capacity and flow rates have been added for the protection of pressurized

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Important Notice to all Fire Extinguishing System Contractors Doing Business in the State of Iowa

Administrative rules implementing Iowa Code Chapter 100 (C) are in effect as of July 1, 2006. The Administrative Rules stipulate that no person shall act as a Fire Extinguishing System Contractor in the State of Iowa without being certified by the Iowa State Fire Marshal's Office.

Contractors are required to apply for certification by August 15, 2006 and will be required to be certified by October 1, 2006, in order to do busi-

ness legally in Iowa.

For a copy of the Administrative Rules and an Application for Certification, visit: [www.state.ia.us/government/dps/fm/fescsccp/index.htm](http://www.state.ia.us/government/dps/fm/fescsccp/index.htm) or:

Iowa State Fire Marshal's Office  
Fire Extinguisher System Contractor Program  
401 SW 7th Street, Suite N  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
515-281-5821



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## Federal Regulations

### Shipping Papers

US DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issues as a final rule Docket No. PHMSA-2005-22208 (HM-240) revising the requirement for retention of shipping papers. Revisions to the regulations require shippers to retain a copy of a shipping paper for period of two years after the shipping paper is provided to a carrier and to require carriers to retain a copy of the shipping paper for a period of one year after the date the shipping paper is received from the shipper. Therefore, the DOT revised sections 182.201(e), 174.24, 175.30, 176.24, and 177.817 of the hazardous materials regulations to incorporate these changes.

Since fire equipment distributors generally operate as a private motor carrier NAFED asked the PHMSA for an interpretation of these regulations as they apply to our industry. The interpretation we received from two PHMSA Enforcement Officers is that our industry would fall under the two year retention requirement. As a private motor carrier you are both the shipper and carrier and therefore the shipper's requirements would be in effect.

For further information contact: Cameron Satterthwaite or Kurt Eichenlaub, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards, (202) 366-8553, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

### Fines and Penalties

US DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issues as a final rule Docket No. PHMSA-2005-22461, Hazardous Materials: Revisions to Civil and Criminal Penalties; Penalty Guidelines. The President signed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, the Hazardous Materials Safety and Security Reauthorization Act of 2005 which revised the maximum and minimum civil penalties and maximum criminal penalty, for violations of the Federal hazardous materials transportation regulations.

The maximum civil penalty was increased from \$32,500 to \$50,000 for a knowing violation, and to \$100,000 if the violation results in death, serious illness or severe injury to any person, or substantial destruction of property. The minimum civil penalty has reverted from \$275 to \$250, except a minimum civil penalty of \$450 which applies to a violation related to training.

Criminal penalties now apply to both reckless and willful violations (as well to as a knowing violation of the prohibition in 49 U.S.C. 5104(b) against tampering with a marking, label, placard, or description on a shipping document) of Federal hazardous material transportation law or the regulations, orders, special permits, and approvals issued there under. The maximum criminal penalty of 5 years imprisonment and a fine in accordance with Title 18 of the United States Code (\$250,000 for an individual, \$500,000 for a corporation) was retained, except the maximum time of imprisonment has been increased to 10 years in any case in which the violation involves the release of a hazardous material which results in death or bodily injury to a person.

### DOT 3AL Cylinders

The PHMSA has issued a Supplemental Notice of Pro-

posed Rulemaking, regarding Docket Number PHMSA-03-14404 (HM-220F) regarding requalification and use criteria of aluminum cylinders manufactured of Aluminum Alloy 6351-T6 used in SCUBA, SCBA, carbon dioxide and oxygen service. The current proposed rulemaking requires these cylinders to undergo a combined visual and eddy current examination, adds an appendix to specify the procedure to conduct an eddy current examination, mandates that suitable safeguards be provided to protect personnel and facilities when these cylinders are filled, and requires that only essential personnel be present during the filling process.

This supplemental notice proposes training requirements for all personnel that will be performing eddy current examination of these cylinders. The supplemental notice also proposes a 40-year service life for cylinders manufactured of aluminum alloy 6351-T6 and used in SCBA, SCUBA, oxygen and carbon dioxide service.

Note: Watch for future NAFED mailings for information on this year's DOT Train-the-Trainer seminars as we are including a special session on the proposed DOT eddy current examination regulations.

### Cylinder Recall

The PHMSA has issued Safety Advisory PHMSA-06-24304 regarding the manufacture, marking and sale of untested compressed gas cylinders. PHMSA was recently notified of the manufacture, marking, and sale of certain high pressure DOT exemption cylinders that were not tested in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements. These cylinders were manufactured and/or distributed by Luxfer, Inc. (Luxfer), Riverside, CA. Luxfer and its independent inspection agency, Arrowhead Industrial Services, Inc. (Arrowhead), reported to PHMSA that 6,325 high pressure cylinders manufactured to the DOT CFFC and FRP-I standards as authorized in DOT-E 10915, DOT-E 9634, and DOT-E 9894, had been shipped from Luxfer without undergoing the required autofrettage and hydrostatic tests. In a joint effort, Luxfer and Arrowhead have retrieved 2,581 of the untested cylinders. The model numbers and serial numbers of the remaining 3,744 cylinders are listed in the DOT notice. Only cylinders with the listed serial numbers listed are affected. A person with a listed cylinder should discontinue use of the cylinder and return it to Arrowhead so the autofrettage and hydrostatic test can be completed before its next use. Shippers and compressed gas filling facilities are advised that these cylinders do not meet the requirements of the Hazardous Materials Regulations and may not be offered for transportation or transported until the required testing is completed.

For the complete list of model numbers, serial number, and other information visit the DOT website at: <http://hazmat.dot.gov/regs/notices/sa/71fr-27307.htm>.

### OSHA Issues First-Aid Program

OSHA has released a new guideline to help companies develop an in house first aid program. The publication is titled *Best Practices Guide: Fundamentals of a Workplace First-Aid Program*. Visit [www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3317first-aid.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3317first-aid.pdf) to download a copy of this publication. ❖



## Computer Based Testing Now Available!

It's finally here! Local certification exam sites are up and running. Three and a half years ago when NAFED started the certification program none of us thought that coming up with local, proctored exam locations would be that difficult. We were surprised. There are several very capable vendors that provide the type of service we were looking for; the problem was determining which vendor best suited the NAFED certification program.

NAFED has partnered with RRAN Testing Services to provide over 1200 proctored test centers in North America. These testing centers provide a secure environment that ensures a professional and consistent test experience. A professional, experienced proctor provides a seamless test experience and ensures security of the exam. RRAN provides various levels of system security using state of the art hardware and software systems.

All test candidates will require a voucher number from NAFED to allow the testing center to access the exams the candidate registered for.

The easiest and most expedient way to apply for and schedule an exam will be through the Internet. However, you can send in an application through regular mail or fax and receive scheduling information in the same manner.

To apply on line visit [www.nafed.org/exam](http://www.nafed.org/exam) and click the link for exam registration. Select the exams or exam package that you want to register for. Once you have completed the application simply click the "send" command and your application will be processed at NAFED. Once your application is processed you will receive a confirmation e-mail that will include your voucher number and contact information to set up a date and time for the exam(s) at a location near you. This can be done via a web link, e-

mail, or toll free phone call. Once the exam is scheduled you need to show up at the scheduled time with your voucher number and government issued photo identification. The exam proctor will set you up at a testing station and bring up the exam(s) that you have registered for. At the completion of the exam your score will be presented and an e-mail of the results will be sent to your e-mail account. Those that successfully completed the certification exam will receive their certification certificate in the mail.

If you do not have or choose not to use e-mail you will need to call RRAN toll free number to schedule your exam.

All other aspects of the certification exams remain the same. The exams are still open book and the passing grade is 75%. The Portable Fire Extinguisher Technician Exam is 150 questions; the Pre-Engineered Kitchen Systems Exam is 125 questions; and the Pre-Engineered Industrial Exam is 40 questions. All of the questions are multiple choice/true and false questions, and the grade is based on the number of correct answers to the total number of questions asked.

Visit <http://www.nafed.org> for more information regarding the certification program and training opportunities to help prepare for the exams. NAFED's certification training seminars have a fantastic success rate for individuals successfully completing the certification exams. Current statistics show that 95% of individuals that attended a NAFED portable certification training seminar passed the certification exam and 94% of individuals that attended a NAFED pre-engineered systems certification training seminar passed the certification exam.

If you are interested, NAFED provides private training seminars. Contact Joe Ciesiel ([joec@nafed.org](mailto:joec@nafed.org)) or Norb Makowka ([norbm@nafed.org](mailto:norbm@nafed.org)) for details. ❖

*NFPA 10 Update...(Continued from page 1)*

fuel fires, three-dimensional fires, and obstacle fires.

5. Only water type extinguishers shall be used in areas containing oxidizers, such as pool chemicals.
6. Extinguisher hangers must be the hanger intended for the specific extinguisher.
7. Within two years all extinguisher maintenance, servicing, and recharging must be performed by trained and certified persons.
8. Monthly inspection procedures were drastically changed in that inspections are no longer required to check tamper seals, operating instructions, physical damage, corrosion, leakage, clogged nozzles, HMIS, or fullness for stored pressure extinguishers.
9. If the extinguisher is located in a area where any following conditions exist, a more thorough inspection must be performed; severe hazards, high frequency of fires, locations susceptible to damage, abnormal temperatures, or corrosive environments.
10. Electronic monitoring may be used as a method to perform inspections.

This list incorporates only some of the revisions to the NFPA 10. There are many other revisions to the standard and you should purchase a copy of the 2006 Edition when it becomes available to familiarize yourself with the new requirements.

### **Fire Extinguisher Inspection**

On June 7, at the NFPA World Safety Conference, Technical Committee Report Session, NAFED and several NAFED members supported a motion made by John Gioseffi of Broward Fire Equipment & Service, to restore the monthly inspection requirements that the current edition of NFPA mandates. This motion was defeated and the new NFPA 10 will allow electronic monitoring to replace monthly inspection in many installations and also eliminate certain inspection procedures for many fire extinguishers. The procedures eliminated include: checking the physical condition of the extinguishers; checking that the tamper seal is in place, checking for physical damage or corrosion, checking the nozzle for blockage, and for stored pressure extinguishers checking the weight of the extinguisher. It was John Gioseffi's belief that since NFPA 10 is the "minimum" requirement, the minimum should not have been lowered to meet the limitations of an electronic monitoring device.

John Gioseffi, Larry Angle of M. Jacks Fire & Safety, Tom Farruggia of Illinois Fire Extinguisher Company, and Norb Makowka of NAFED staff spoke in favor of the motion. Despite their presentation of valid information and concerns the motion was defeated and reduced inspection procedures are permitted in the new NFPA 10 standard

At this time on behalf of all NAFED members, we would like to thank John Gioseffi, Larry Angle, and Tom Farruggia for their concerns, efforts, time, and expense to protect the interests of NAFED members and to keep proper extinguisher service procedures. ❖

report fire incidents does not even have a section to report if fire extinguishers were used. Therefore, no one, other than you, knows when fire extinguishers have successfully extinguished a fire. You let us know and we will make the information available to others.

Although the forms ask for your company's name and location we will not make that information public. We need that information in case we need to clarify a portion of the report or if we would like to write about the incident or maintenance in *Fire-watch* or other publications.

### Fire Extinguisher Incident Report

This form is to be completed for every fire incident involving fire extinguisher(s) that you recharge or replace. Indicate on the top portion of the form the number, capacity, and type of extinguisher(s) that were used to extinguish the fire. The next step is to indicate the type of fire by class and type of occupancy. If you indicate that the fire extinguisher(s) successfully extinguished the fire, skip to the last section and answer the questions regarding fire department response and building sprinklers. A successful extinguishment is complete extinguishing of the fire by the use of fire extinguisher(s).

If you indicate that the fire extinguisher(s) were not successful in extinguishing the fire, complete the sections on how the fire was extinguished and why the extinguisher failed. However, even though a fire extinguisher(s) may not have completely extinguished the fire, many times fire extinguishers are used to control fires to assist in evacuation or rescue. If this is the case please provide details. For example an extinguisher may have been used to control a vehicle fire so an accident victim could be removed from the vehicle.

The survey form may be filled out and mailed or faxed to NAFED headquarters or you can file the report on line at [www.nafed.org/surveys](http://www.nafed.org/surveys).

### Internal Maintenance Survey Form

This form is to be completed whenever you complete the internal maintenance of any fire extinguisher. The paper form can be used to report ten individual maintenance reports per report form, the electronic report form, [www.nafed.org/surveys](http://www.nafed.org/surveys), is designed for a report per fire extinguisher. These reports are simple check items, so the time per report should be minimal.

The first portion asks what type of extinguisher was involved, if it was a wheeled unit, and if the pressure gauge was operable. The next section asks what the reason was for the internal maintenance: six-year interval, recharge, or other concern. The last section asks what was observed during the maintenance: Was the unit condemned because of external or internal corrosion? Was there a problem with the agent in the extinguisher? Was there contamination of the extinguisher cylinder? Were other deficiencies found or were no deficiencies found?

Remember, we need this information to establish the importance of fire extinguishers and the need for proper maintenance. Only you, the fire equipment service professional can provide this information to NAFED. Without accurate evidence and data we could see these valuable life safety tools being removed because of a lack of knowledge.

Don't wait for someone else to provide this information. It is the responsibility of each and every NAFED member to supply this data. Don't hope that someone else will do it so that you don't have to. If your technicians complain that they are too busy to complete the forms ask them how busy they will be if fire extinguishers are removed because the authorities did not know of the valuable service they provide. ❖



## Calendar of Events

August 17—18

NAFED Certification Exam Training Seminars: Portables and Pre-Engineered Kitchen. Lawrenceville, NJ. Mercer County Fire Academy, Dempster Fire Training Center. Visit [www.nafed.org/calendar](http://www.nafed.org/calendar) to download the registration form or call us at (312) 263-8100.

Hotel Gaslamp District. Visit [www.nafed.org/calendar](http://www.nafed.org/calendar) for more information or call us at (312) 263-8100. ❖

*Though compiled with care, the information in this calendar is subject to change without notice. It is not possible to guarantee a complete absence of errors. Therefore, NAFED does not take responsibility for the correctness of the information made available, and users are advised that they make use of this information strictly at their own risk.*

November 1—3

NAFED's 2006 Executive Retreat, San Diego, CA. Marriott

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