

Fire Equipment Maintenance: The Basics

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- Co2 Gas Extinguisher**

 Besides checking the extinguishers general body condition which normally has no problem as the extinguisher is of solid mild steel, and seeing that the valve is intact. The only service required for this type of extinguisher is to physically weigh it and confirm its weight. The extinguisher has indents indicating empty weight, gross weight and content capacity.

- Hose Reels**

 Reel out the tubing to check for any cracks or kinking- if any is noticed and is extensive- change the tubing.

Open Gate Valve (it should always be opened anyway) and open the nozzle and test the spray (jet settings and closing. No leakages should be evident when in closed position.

The reels axle kits should not be leaking. If any leakage is observed-change the axle kits and if it leaks the nozzle change it.

The pumps should also be tested by seeing that it opens and shuts as you work the hose reels. It should automatically start upon dropping of the pressure in the system and closing upon reaching the standby pressure. Further checks to the pump should see that the brushes are full and there is no sparking or leakages within the pump connections and that the pressure gauge stops at the recommended settings.

- Landing Valves/Inlet Breechings**

 These are visually checked to see that the locking mechanism is working properly with a hitch and that instantaneous coupling of the delivery hose is done as such and that there is no jamming. If locking mechanism is faulty it should be changed. The washer should also be locked so that it is seen to be intact and not cracked.

- Fire Blankets**

 These are drawn out and their state generally observed that they are not torn or have fungal growth. They should be brushed folded and returned to the container.

- Delivery Hoses**

 These should be rolled out and check for any damage or cuts and the locking mechanism tested for instantaneous coupling action. Once a year they should be pressure tested, dried and returned to their positions.

- Stand Pipes**

 These are tested by clamping them to the water hydrants, placing a blank cap and subjecting it to water pressure. If it holds it ok washers at both ends are checked for cracks and the instantaneous coupling action tested.

- Alarm System**

 Batteries check for acidity levels i.e. amperes

Panel check Blow dust the interior and test the indicator lamps all work by the test lamp switch. These will show the fire, fault etc lamp action.

test the general alarm for the bells or sounders and see that the call point triggers at the panel and the fire lamp comes on indicating the zone properly. Then using the panel key this is cancelled and returned to stand by position. This is repeated to each call point.

- Detectors**

 These are triggered individually and they should trigger the panel. (The test is same for call points).

- Sprinkler System/Wet Riser System**

 The pumps are tested to comply with the manufacturers operation regime and all the settings recorded in a test record schedule (as sample provided). The sprinkler system is opened through an end of line test valve and the alarm should sound as well as the pump should kick as required.