

# Aquionix

Spring Newsletter #1

## Safety Corner

### Portable Fire Extinguishers

#### Distribution, Training and Inspection

##### - Distribution -

Portable fire extinguishers must be located no more than 75 feet from where a class A (ordinary combustibles), C (electrical) or D (combustible metals) fire may ignite. Where class B (flammable liquids) fires may ignite, the distance of travel to a fire extinguisher must be 50 feet or less.

##### - Inspection and Maintenance -

Portable fire extinguishers must undergo a monthly visual inspection and an annual maintenance check.

Monthly Visual Inspections are generally performed in-house and should verify that:

- Access is not blocked;
- There is sufficient pressure in the fire extinguisher;
- The locking pin and tamper seal are in place;
- The tank, hardware and nozzle are in good condition;
- The instructions are legible; and
- The annual maintenance tag is in place and current.

Although not required, it is recommended that these inspections be documented. See our website for a monthly inspection template.

<http://www.aquionix.com/tools.htm>

Annual maintenance checks are generally performed by a qualified outside contractor and documented on a tag that is affixed to each fire extinguisher. These tags must be maintained for 1 year after the last entry.

##### - Training -

Employees must be trained upon employment and annually thereafter. This training must be documented and include the safe use of fire extinguishers and the hazards involved with incipient stage fire fighting.

### Did You Know...

**Lighting wastes account for as much as 6% of the mercury entering our landfills!**

### Universal Waste

Universal Waste Rules help industry manage the following types of waste, which would otherwise require full compliance with hazardous waste regulations, including labeling, training and manifesting requirements.

- Batteries (except alkaline and lead-acid)
- Pesticides used in agriculture
- Mercury-containing lighting wastes (non-green tipped fluorescent bulbs; mercury vapor lamps, etc.)
- Mercury-containing devices<sup>1</sup> (thermometers, switches, blood pressure cuffs, etc.)
- Aerosol cans containing hazardous wastes<sup>1</sup>
- Electronic devices and components<sup>1</sup> (including monitors, televisions, and circuit boards)

1 - If shipped outside of CO, these wastes may have to be manifested per the receiving State's hazardous waste rules.

**Storage** - If an individual waste material is not in good condition and is leaking or shows signs that it could leak, it must be individually over-packed in a closed packing container. The container must be properly labeled and capable of preventing leakage or releases of hazardous constituents to the environment under reasonably foreseeable conditions.

**Labeling** - When a universal waste is generated, it must be labeled as either "Waste (*material type*)," "Used (*material type*)" or "Universal Waste (*material type*)." If the waste is placed into an accumulation container, only the accumulation container needs to be labeled, not the individual waste materials within it.

**Shipping** - Universal waste can only be shipped to another universal waste handler or a destination facility that is permitted to treat, dispose, or recycle the waste. DOT shipping requirements must be met.

**Training** - Employees handling universal wastes must be informed about the proper handling and emergency procedures appropriate to the types of universal wastes being handled.

**Record Keeping** - It is recommended that records be maintained to document the generation and shipment of Universal Wastes.