

The Maintenance Surveys

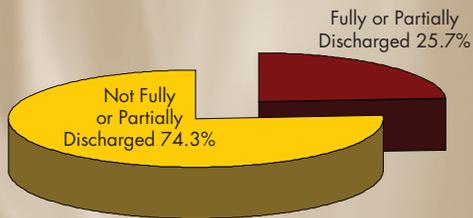
1998 Survey Results

NAFED's 1998 maintenance survey was based on service reports provided by over 30 NAFED members throughout the US. The technicians submitted an evaluation for each extinguisher on which he/she performed annual maintenance. * Of 4,559 extinguishers reported on, 1,184 had been fully or partially discharged (25.7%). Of 4,592 extinguishers reported on, 1,352 had other deficiencies (29.4%). Technicians noted whether the extinguishers were in the correct location, finding 1,088 out of 4,578 were not

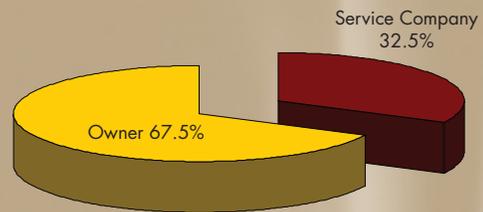
(23.8%). The NFPA 10 Standard requirement that a monthly "quick check" inspection be performed to make sure the fire extinguisher is available and in operating condition was performed on only 466 of 4,583 extinguishers (10.2%) – in 337 of 499 cases, the owner performed the quick check instead of a service company (67.5%). It had been over a year since 2,598 of 3,988 surveyed extinguishers had been inspected by a fire department (65.1%).

*In the 1998 survey, the number of respondents to each question varied.

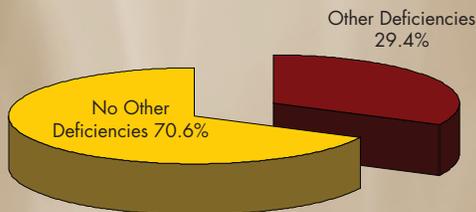
Extinguishers Discharged



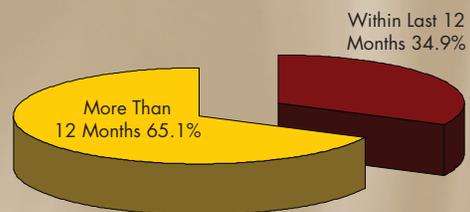
Who Performed Monthly Inspections



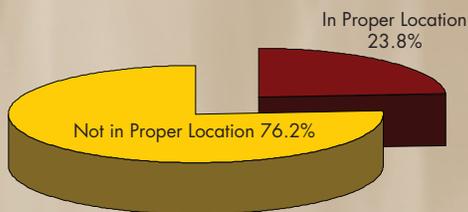
Other Extinguisher Deficiencies



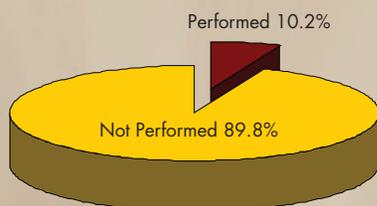
Most Recent Fire Department Inspection



Extinguisher Location



Monthly Inspections



Conclusions

NAFED's 1998 survey finds a larger than expected degree of unsatisfactory maintenance. Fire extinguishers have proven their effectiveness in extinguishing fires, saving lives, and protecting property from fire. Their effectiveness, however, is **extremely dependent** on proper maintenance. Per NFPA standards, portable extinguishers should have annual maintenance by qualified technicians and monthly inspection, and those who own or manage occupancies are responsible for making this happen. Every effort should be made to ensure that, as a minimum, fire extinguishers are located and maintained in accordance with NFPA's standards.