

U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

Coffee Break Training

Topic: Carbon Dioxide Extinguishers: Electrical Conductivity Testing

Learning objective: The student shall be able to explain the purpose of annual electrical conductivity tests required on discharge hoses attached to carbon dioxide portable fire extinguishers.

Carbon dioxide fire extinguisher hoses have a continuous metallic braid that connects to both couplings to minimize the static shock hazard from the discharging gas. An annual electrical conductivity test is required to verify that the hose is conductive from the inlet coupling to the outlet orifice.

Carbon dioxide hose assemblies that pass the conductivity test should have the test information recorded on a label that is attached to the hose.



The information should include the month and year the test was performed, and the name or initials of the person who conducted the test. If the label is not present, the extinguisher should be serviced.

Hoses and their components that do not adequately conduct electricity should be replaced.

See NFPA 10, *Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers* for additional information.