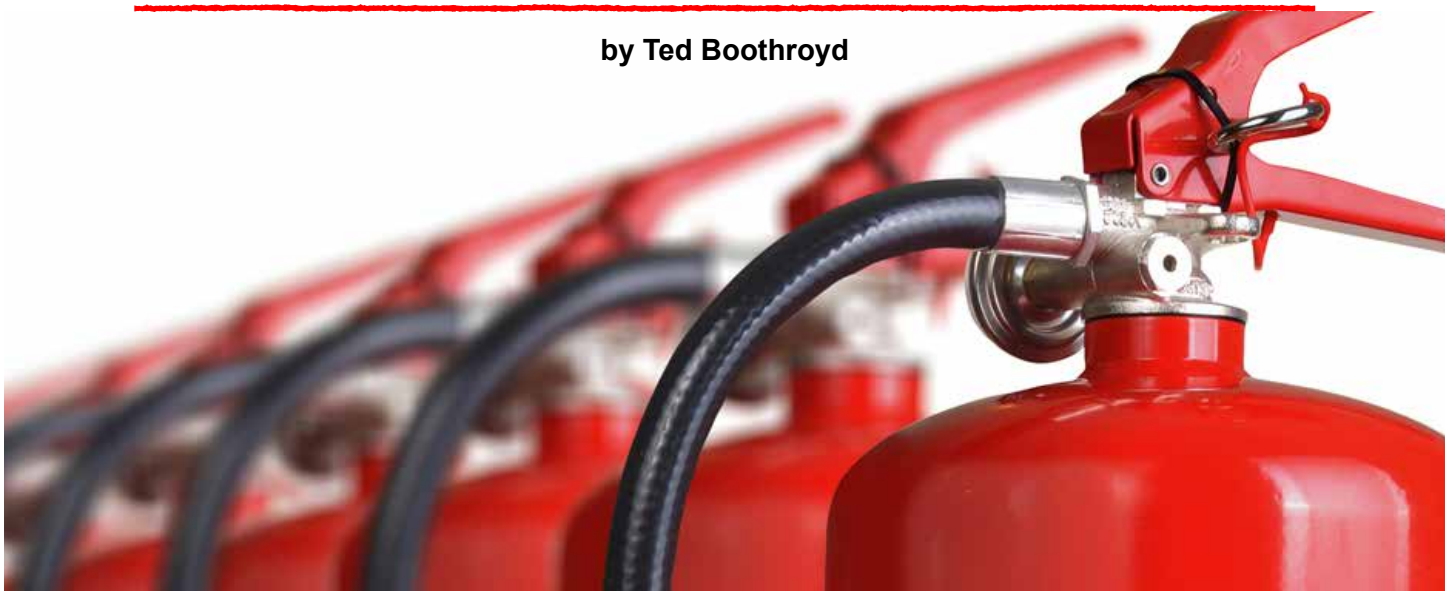
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS 101

by Ted Boothroyd



In the June 2015 issue of *BCM*, I wrote an article for BCM called “The Talk”. In it, we covered the ins and outs of why you should review the fire extinguisher protection in your beautiful and most expensive bus conversion. Since then, and most recently, you may have heard about the massive recall of about 40 million fire extinguishers.

I am going out on a limb here to guess that most RVers have one of these in their rig. They were installed basically as a “freebie” by the manufacturer of the rig to feign fire protection. The rest of the population of RVers which includes bus conversions, boats, cars etc., have purchased this type of fire extinguisher solely because of their weensy price tag. Let me explain why this is wrong thinking and what the penalty is.

The information I have read on the recall of these fire extinguishers, varies by author. However, it all boils down to the hardware that operates the extinguisher. In a word, it is “plastics”.

- The tank itself is strong enough to hold a charge, but the plastic components that operate the extinguisher are not. Think of a grandchild dropping one accidently, breaking the plastic handle assembly off and turning the unit into a mini rocket. The tank is a pressurized tank, and it could severely injure, or kill anyone who is in the way of a ruptured component.
- Fire extinguishers with plastic components cannot be recharged.
- Fire extinguishers with plastic components are not safe as a pressure vessel.
- Typically, this type of fire extinguisher is rated as a 5:BC, and will not be effective on a class A type fire. Class A fires are what you find in any bus conversion; paper, cardboard, wood, drapery, and carpets.

Have you upgraded your bus?

We are looking for Bus Nuts who have made modifications to their coaches.
If that is you, please send us an article, long or short (with photos), about your upgrade.
Send your articles to:
Gary@BusConversions.com
You will receive a FREE one year subscription or extension for each article we run.

