TAKING CARE OF YOUR FIRE EXTINGUISHER



by Ted Boothroyd

There is nothing complicated about taking care of your fire extinguisher. However, these words assume that you have an ABC rated, dry chemical fire extinguisher, in a metal tank, with metal workings. The little plastic ones do not need any maintenance and cannot be recharged if used.

Now then, here are the few things you should do or check with a righteous fire extinguisher:

- First and foremost, store it in an area where you know exactly where it is and where access to it cannot be blocked. I built a plywood box storage for my extinguisher. The box is attached to the wall near one of the exit doors. The extinguisher is heavy when flying through the bus after an accident, and it is under pressure. If the neck of the vessel is broken off during the fracas, the tank will become a missile. Use a bungy cord to secure it to the box.
- At least once per month, examine the extinguisher as follows: Check the pressure gauge for a full charge. The needle should be in the green area on the gauge. They are very good at holding pressure for years, but if the needle shows in the red, the extinguisher should be recharged. The trigger should be held away from accidental operation by a hindrance pin. In the old days, the

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Call us on the Phone:
(657) 221-0432

Send us an email:
Gary@BusConversions.com