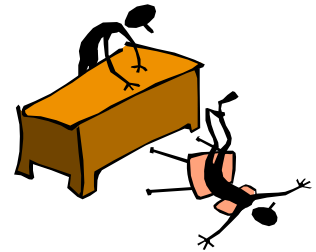




LESSONS TO LEARN BY



Non-Functioning Portable Fire Extinguisher

What Happened?

During a small fire within a University building an employee attempted to use a portable fire extinguisher that did not operate correctly. The employee then obtained another fire extinguisher and successfully extinguished the fire.

What Were the Causes and Contributing Factors?

The inoperable fire extinguisher had been used briefly several days earlier and returned to its extinguisher cabinet for reuse before it was refilled and serviced. Insufficient pressure remained in the unit to extinguish the fire.

What Corrective Action was Taken?

Ensure that individuals who use any fire extinguisher immediately remove it from service until it is refilled.

How Can Incidents Like This be Prevented?

Immediately remove from service any fire extinguisher that has been used and contact the Fire Extinguisher Crew for servicing. At University Park contact the Work Control Center at 865-4731. At Non-University Park locations, contact the fire extinguisher vendor listed on the extinguisher inspection tag.

Please see the following Office of Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Information Sheets for further information:

SY09 Fire Extinguisher Provisions: <http://guru.psu.edu/policies/sy09.html>