

✓ Done Desk

Dental Practice's Fire Extinguisher Inspection Checklist

Electrocautery, electrosurgery, and laser units, as well as fiber-optic light units and cables, are very common sources of intense heat in the dental office.

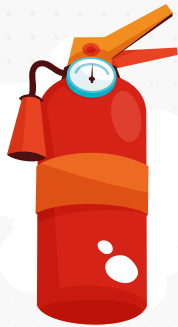
Even sparks from a high-speed drill contacting hard tissue or metal plates and screws can ignite a fire if a dry gauze throat screen and a high concentration of oxygen are present.

Types of Fire Extinguishers



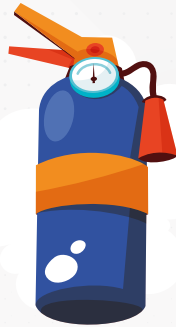
A

Ordinary
Combustibles



B

Flammable
Liquids



C

Electrical
Fires



D

Reactive
Metals



E

Flammable
Gases

Common fires in Dental offices can fall under several different extinguisher categories.

Fires are not uncommon in operating rooms and also have occurred in dental offices. The ECRI Institute estimates that 600 surgical fires occur yearly.

Though most fall under the standard “ABC” categories – Dental offices use compressed gases every day to help their patients. The most familiar gas you may know is nitrous oxide. We recommend keeping a special “Flammable Gases” canister on hand for use involving sedation or general anesthesia where oxygen is delivered. An A-B-C fire extinguisher can be used on all kinds of fires.

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Learn how to do a monthly fire extinguisher inspection in your practice. Employers are **required by law** to have the portable fire extinguishers visually inspected monthly. Failure to comply can lead to penalties and puts the employees and the workplace in serious risk in the event of an incident.

- Location of extinguisher is easily identifiable by signs.
- Confirm the extinguisher is visible, unobstructed, and in its designated location.
- Make sure that the maintenance tag is valid.
- The fire extinguisher is mounted in an easily accessible place with no debris or material stacked in front of it.
- Verify the locking pin is intact and the tamper seal is unbroken. Examine the extinguisher for obvious physical damage, corrosion, leakage, or clogged nozzle.
- Confirm the pressure gauge or indicator is in the operable range or position, and lift the extinguisher to ensure it is still full.
- Make sure the operating instructions on the nameplate are legible and facing outward.
- Check the last professional service date on the tag. (A licensed fire extinguisher maintenance contractor must have inspected the extinguisher within the past 12 months.)
- Dust and wipe down the extinguisher.
- Initial and date the back of the tag.

Make sure to record observations and take photos for visual evidence. Immediately act on urgent issues found while conducting inspections. Set your automatic inspection reminders and record inspection dates and timestamps to prove completion in **Done Desk**.