Dear Valued Brooks Customer,

For nearly seventy years, Brooks has been there for you. A cornerstone in the industry, we have served thousands and thousands of happy customers with the best products and best services possible. And we continue that trend today with the release of our NEW, 2010 Brooks catalog. A true original, the new Brooks book features 312, full-color pages of the great stuff you’ve come depend on, plus over 300 new items you’ll come to appreciate. By now you should have your copy. If not, just give us a call.

Speaking of great new stuff, inside our latest publication you’ll find a number of new items highlighted with expanded coverage. From fire alarm products, restaurant system parts and two new hose testing machines, we’ve got all the “right stuff” so you’ll have it, too. We’ve also joined forces with HeartSine® to bring you the Samaritan®, an AED for public areas. We’ll even be offering training classes for this easy-to-use, affordable AED very soon, so keep an eye on our Web site for more information.

And, you can be 100% confident that everything you get at Brooks is the real deal. That means original OEM products and parts as well as UL listed, UL recognized and UL classified products, parts and services. Because we only partner with the best fire and safety equipment manufacturers on the planet, that means quality, too. From dry chemical replacement parts and sprinkler heads to fire alarms and fire extinguishers, it’s all original and it’s all yours at Brooks – guaranteed.

In addition to news about our 2010 catalog, inside this latest edition of Hot Topics, you’ll discover a lot of industry related news, views and reviews. Be sure to check out the changes to NFPA 10 on page 3. It’s definitely a hot topic!

Remember, no one cares more about you and your business than Brooks. And we try to show it in everything we do. From the best selection and customer service to the fastest shipping and highest quality, it’s our business to see that yours grows. That’s from the one company that has specialized in doing just that for almost 70 years.

Thank you for looking to us for all your needs and feel free to contact us at 800.826.3473 or contact me directly at sales@brooksequipment.com. We’d all love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Tim Foughty
President
**Tenants Prevent Building Blaze**

MANISTIQUE, MI – The quick action of two tenants is said to have prevented major fire damage to a Manistique apartment building on Main Street Monday, according to local officials. No one was injured.

After being alerted to a fire by a smoke detector in a neighboring upstairs apartment, Tammy Vandendriessche forced the locked door open and Jeffery Thayer used a fire extinguisher to put out a fire in the kitchen.

“It was on the brink of developing into a major fire,” said Public Safety Director Ken Golat. “They were there at the right instant. If they weren’t there, the building would have went.”

Golat praised the two tenants for their quick action in responding to the fire alarm with one of the fire extinguishers in the building.

“It was a great job by a couple good citizens,” he added.

About 10 people reside in the apartment complex, which has eight units.

Thayer and Vandendriessche lived in separate apartments on the second floor. “It was fortunate they were home and heard the alarm, especially at that time of day when most people are out working,” Golat commented.

When public safety and volunteer firefighters responded to the 4:31 p.m. report of a structure fire, they arrived to find the fire smoldering. The fire was later determined to have accidentally started in a kitchen sink. What caused the fire is unknown and remains undetermined, according to Golat.

The second-floor apartment where the fire broke out was unoccupied at the time.

“The apartment received light fire damage in the kitchen area and moderate smoke damage throughout the residence. The other upstairs apartments in the complex received minor smoke damage,” Golat stated. He estimated damages amounted to $1,000-$2,000.

“Cleanup is going to be the major thing,” he said.

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**Officers Provide Aid At Motel Fire**

WESTLAND, MI – Two Westland police officers are being lauded for saving a woman whose motel room was on fire early Sunday.

Officers Bob Wilkie and Jason Brassfield were riding together on patrol at Michigan Avenue and Merriman in Wayne shortly after midnight when they noticed a large amount of smoke.

The officers continued west on Michigan Avenue towards Venoy where they arrived at the Parklane Motel which was on fire.

“They were the first responders and immediately assisted the residents,” said Westland Deputy Police Chief Mark Engstrom. Motel guests who had already left their rooms told the officers that the occupant of one room was still inside.

“There were wires blocking the entrance. The officers tried to talk to her (the motel guest) to get her to jump through the fire but she didn’t want to come through,” said Engstrom. “The officers used a fire extinguisher to suppress the fire and she was able to jump through.”

No cause has been determined for the fire yet.

**Portsmouth Eatery Fire Quickly Doused**

PORTSMOUTH, NH – Firefighters responded to a small fire in a downtown restaurant’s cooking vent early Friday morning but were beaten to the punch by employees with fire extinguishers.

According to Fire Captain Tim Collins, all city fire crews responded to the fire around 10:15 a.m. at Flatbread Pizza located at 138 Congress Street.

Collins said the fire was contained inside the vent and employees using fire extinguishers were able to squash the small fire before crews arrived. Firefighters doused the area with water and accessed the roof of the building as a precautionary measure.

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“Winning isn’t everything, but wanting to win is.”

~ Vince Lombardi
Important Changes for the 2010 Edition of NFPA 10

By Mark Conroy, Brooks Equipment Company

NFPA 10, Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers, was recently revised by the Technical Committee on Portable Fire Extinguishers. This article details the ten most significant changes for the 2010 edition of NFPA 10. The 2010 edition of NFPA 10 was approved as an American National Standard on December 5, 2009 and is currently available.

1. Dry Chemical Extinguishers are Prohibited for Protection of Delicate Electronic Equipment

The 2007 edition of the standard required that extinguishers installed for the protection of delicate electronic equipment, such as computers and robotics, be selected from the types specifically listed and labeled for Class C (electrical) hazards (paragraph 5.5.6). Since most extinguishers purchased for buildings contain dry chemical extinguishing agent, which are listed for Class C fires, the concern was that these extinguishers might inadvertently be installed for the protection of delicate electronic equipment without further consideration for the potential interruption of business, the necessary extensive cleanup, and the potential corrosion problems that would result. To avoid these complications, NFPA 10 now specifically prohibits the installation of dry chemical extinguishers for the protection of delicate electronic equipment. In addition, explanatory text was added in Annex A of the issues regarding cleanup and the probability of corrosion if not addressed.

2. 27 Annual Maintenance Steps are Detailed

For years confusion has surrounded the monthly inspection of extinguishers performed by anyone with minimal understanding of extinguishers and the elaborate annual maintenance examination performed by extinguisher service technicians. Another change introduces 27 extensive steps as A.7.3.2 that must be followed to properly perform maintenance on dry chemical stored pressure hand portable fire extinguishers. Since these extinguishers are the predominant extinguishers installed throughout buildings, the revision focuses on this type. The main intent is to provide detailed information on the amount of labor involved with performing maintenance correctly in accordance with the extinguisher service manual. Users of the standard will see that 12 monthly quick check inspections will not suffice for the annual maintenance. Also, the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) is provided with the backing needed to keep unqualified people from tagging extinguishers for maintenance.

3. Removal of Dry Chemical Stored Pressure Extinguishers Manufactured Prior to October 1984 is Explained

The 2007 edition of the standard introduced a provision (4.4.1) to remove dry chemical stored pressure extinguishers, manufactured prior to October 1984, from service at the next 6-year maintenance interval or the next hydrostatic test interval. This change resulted in several inquiries regarding the reasons for their removal. Based on the need for further explanation, Fred Goodnight and Craig Voelkert of Amerex were enlisted to write an article for NFPA Journal Online Exclusive (January/February, 2007). The article was widely distributed and became the focal point for people looking to make an informed decision on the need to comply with the requirement.

The NFPA committee used the content of the article for a new annex section explaining the concerns with these extinguishers. The concerns include new hose requirements, minimum discharge times, pull pin criteria and service manual information.

The committee also added text to make it clear that this provision does not apply to wheeled extinguishers.

4. Commercial Cooking Facilities That Use Cooking Oils Must Be Protected by Listed Class K Extinguishers

Commercial cooking facilities that use cooking oils need the appropriate type of extinguisher that has been tested by an independent laboratory. A new requirement makes it clear that the committee supports the new listing and any extinguisher without a Class K rating will need to be removed and replaced with a listed Class K extinguisher. Although many dry chemical extinguishers that were previously allowed

Continued on page 4
should have been removed already, this new requirement would apply to any of the earlier versions of wet chemical extinguishers that do not have the Class K listing.

The committee also added a warning that Class K fire extinguishers equipped with extended wand-type discharge devices should not be used in a manner that results in subsurface injection of wet chemical extinguishing agents into hot cooking oil, since this causes a thermodynamic reaction that is comparable to an explosion.

5. Halon Agent Fire Extinguisher Use is Limited

Other changes involving extinguishing agents are those that relate to halogenated agents. Halogenated agents include Halon 1211 used in the old halon extinguishers and the new replacement agents called halocarbons. In the 2007 edition, 5.3.2.6 allowed halogenated agent fire extinguisher use in limited applications. The broad category in the requirement was narrowed to specify that only halon extinguishers should have limitations placed on its use due to environmental concerns. Annex A provides further explanation and references the Montreal Protocol list of controlled substances on which halon is listed. The new halocarbon agents that do not have any restrictions by environmental regulators such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should not be restricted by this provision. Thus the clarification allows the new clean agent halocarbons to be used for their most appropriate applications without confusion.

The committee also added annex material to clarify safety information provided on halogenated agent nameplates regarding minimum volume requirements. This is in order to avoid overexposure to these agents that are discharged into confined spaces.

6. Examining and Coiling Wheeled Unit Discharge Hoses is Mandated

Wheeled extinguishers have relatively long discharge hoses. In the event of a fire, these hoses must be deployed quickly. To accommodate fast and easy deployment, the hoses are flaked in a certain manner on the rack attached to the extinguisher. Rock climbers and sailors have long understood the need to flake a rope properly so that it does not get tangled when it is needed quickly. The same concept applies to wheeled extinguisher hoses. A new requirement in 7.3.1.5 mandates that these hoses be coiled in a manner to prevent kinks to allow rapid deployment. Manufacturer’s manuals as well as the sketches in Annex A provide specific details. Additionally, a new requirement mandates that these hoses be completely uncoiled and examined for damage on an annual basis. This should ensure that any hoses coiled incorrectly in the field will be coiled correctly within a year of the issuance of the next edition.

7. Water Mist Agent Re-Use and Replacement is Specified

It is extremely important that the proper type of de-ionized purified water be used in water mist extinguishers. This extinguishing agent is listed to be in compliance with 4.1.4.1 and 4.1.4.2 and is therefore able to achieve the Class C rating. Contaminants could increase the conductivity of the water and could potentially clog the nozzle, which has small orifices to deliver the water as a fine mist spray. The committee therefore added requirements in 7.4.3.11 pertaining to the re-use and replacement of water mist agents.

Water mist and wet chemical extinguishers were added to the list of fire extinguishers that can only be repressurized with the type of expellant gas on the extinguisher label.

8. Terminology Change to “Durable Weatherproof Label”

Metallic labels are mentioned in a number of places in the 2007 edition. This wording has caused some confusion in the field as the labels commonly used are actually plastic material, which only look to be silver metallic. The phrase “suitable metallic label” was replaced with “durable weatherproof label” where used. Also, a new label requirement in 8.7.2.2(4) uses the “durable weatherproof label” phrase. These changes

Continued from page 3
are intended to prevent confusion and preclude any enforcement problems with labels that have proven to be appropriate in the field.

9. Procedures for Technician Certification are Expanded

There has been much confusion over the technician certification requirement in the 2007 edition of the standard. In response, the committee chairman appointed a task group to study the issue and make recommendations to the full committee in the form of public comments. Similar to the 2007 edition, the new edition of the standard contains a requirement that technicians be certified. There is also recognition of apprenticeship programs and requirements for persons training to become technicians.

The expanded subsection on personnel in 7.1.2 includes many new requirements detailing the certification process. In order to become certified, an individual will need to pass a test administered by an organization that is acceptable to the AHJ. The test must, at a minimum, be based on the chapters and annexes of NFPA 10. The testing process must allow use of the standard during the test (open book test). Persons passing the test must be issued a document or a certificate that must be made available when requested by the AHJ. Basically, the organization administering the test issues the (official) document that is relied upon as proof of passing the test.

The new Annex A material recognizes two additional means that are considered equivalent to the certification process. AHJ’s that do not rely on outside organizations for certification are permitted to establish their own local licensing programs that include a test. Additionally, industrial operations such as power generation, petrochemical, and telecommunications facilities that establish their own maintenance and recharge facilities and provide training to personnel that perform these functions will be considered to be in compliance with this requirement. A letter from the facility management will be acceptable as the certification document.

Persons performing the monthly inspections will not be required to become certified, which is stated in the new requirement of 7.1.2.3. This allowance, however, is not intended to prevent service technicians from performing these 30-day inspections.

Another notable revision is that the new certification requirements do not have a deadline because the committee felt that the AHJ should determine the time frame. The past deadline of December 31, 2009 (Tentative Interim Amendment TIA 07-1), was also deleted. The committee also deleted the definition for certified person and associated annex material as it is not needed with the new requirements.

Since some certification exams are considered to be expensive, technicians should check with their employers and employers should check with the state or local AHJ prior to taking an exam. Ultimately, the AHJ has the final say regarding licensing and certification issues.

10. Hydrostatic Testing Facilities are Expanded

The specifications in 8.1.2.1 of those permitted to perform hydrostatic testing were expanded. Hydrostatic testing can now be performed at hydrostatic testing facilities with a DOT or TC certification such as full service extinguisher shops or at other facilities that perform hydrostatic testing for other cylinders such as scuba dive shops or welding supply houses.

At a fire extinguisher company full-service shop, the hydrostatic testing must be performed by persons trained in pressure testing procedures and safeguards and they must have the appropriate testing equipment and facilities. Hydrostatic testing facilities such as dive shops and welding supply houses with a DOT certification number (RIN) are also permitted to do the hydrostatic testing of extinguishers.

Any facility that performs the extinguisher dismantling and reassembly, including any replacing of parts must have extinguisher technicians meeting the qualifications shown in 7.1.2. Although this was always the intent of the standard, this revision makes it clear. Just like it takes special skills and knowledge to hydrostatically test a cylinder, the persons reassembling the extinguishers must have specialized skills and knowledge in order to be able to follow the manufacturer’s maintenance manual and properly put the extinguisher back to working order. •

Mark Conroy is an engineer with Brooks Equipment Company and a principal member of the NFPA 10 Technical Committee.
Hot Off the Press, our brand new 312-page, full-color catalog is loaded with all the best fire equipment from all the best manufacturers in the US. That means only Genuine OEM products and Genuine OEM replacement parts as well as UL listed, UL classified and UL recognized parts, products and services. And, we’ve added over 300 new products – plus more e-light and fire alarm training classes to help you keep pace with our ever-changing industry. If you haven’t received your copy yet, contact your Brooks account manager right away.

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Wilkesboro, NC
Meet Chris Rushing – Assistant Warehouse Director

We spoke with Chris Rushing to find out the secret behind the huge warehouse operation that enables our nationwide distribution centers to operate so smoothly.

Q. “How long have you been with Brooks?”
A. “I joined Brooks in October of 1986. I’ve been here a long time. It will be 24 years this year.”

Q. “How did you originally join Brooks?”
A. “My cousin was working here and told me about the position. I applied and started the next day in the warehouse here in Charlotte. At the time, Doug Harris was the warehouse manager and is now VP of Warehouse & Distribution Operations.”

Q. “What is a typical day like?”
A. “I come in and check reports, find out what the warehouses did the previous day, oversee issues, work with the Sales Department and act as middleman between Sales and the Warehouse Managers. Occasionally, I travel to our warehouses to help out, too.”

Q. “What is the best part of the job?”
A. “The warehouse team – we have a bunch of good people. I also enjoy working with the people here in the corporate office. Overall, I really enjoy what I am doing. There are a lot of challenges that come up and it is just a great job. I look forward to it.”

Q. “What is the secret to these smoothly run warehouses?”
A. “We don’t have very much turnover in our warehouses. In fact, the majority of our Warehouse Managers have been with the company 15+ years. We’ve also been in business a very long time and have good policies and procedures in place to keep things running smoothly.”

Q. “What do you do for fun outside work?”
A. “I like to fish as much as I can but I have two small children so I enjoy spending most of my free time with my wife and kids. I also coach my son’s baseball team and go camping with my daughter.”

Proper Placement of Extinguishers

By Mark Conroy, Brooks Engineering Dept.

Have you ever had a discussion or debate with a building owner or architect over the proper placement of portable fire extinguishers throughout a building? Here’s a neat little sketch that has been added to NFPA 10, 2010 edition that will help you win those debates.

It graphically shows that extinguishers must be 106 feet apart in order to satisfy the 75 ft travel distance rule. Some people were misunderstanding the travel distance rule to imply that extinguishers could be 150 ft apart. Well you can see from this sketch that a square inscribed inside a circle with a 75 ft radius has sides that are 106 ft. That’s because the hypotenuse of a right-angle triangle with sides of 75 ft is 106 ft. If you stack the squares next to each other, you’ll see that their centers are 106 ft apart and therefore there is a need for the extinguishers to be 106 feet apart in order for any point to be no more than 75 ft from an extinguisher. If extinguishers are further apart, they are not in compliance with Table 6.2.1.1 of NFPA 10.

So next time you are in a discussion about proper placement of extinguishers throughout a building, have a copy of this article handy. No one can argue successfully against the logic, the sketch, or the reference to NFPA 10.
**PRODUCT GALLERY**

*For more information on these and other new products, click on brooksequipment.com/NEW_Products.*

**HIGH FLOW FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

**NEW**

Badger’s High Flow Fire Extinguishers are the right choice for addressing real world fire situations found in commercial and industrial applications. All models have dry chemical agent discharge rates exceeding the minimum one pound per second recommendation of NFPA for properly addressing various Class B obstacle, pressure, gravity and three-dimensional types of fire burning situations. USCG approved.

![Badger’s High Flow Fire Extinguishers](image1)

**WYPALL® WIPERS**

**NEW**

WYPALL® Wipers provide better absorption than a shop rag and come in different thicknesses for different jobs. And since they’re disposable, they keep workers healthier and shops cleaner. WYPALL uses Hydroknit® technology to combine excellent absorbing power in a lightweight wiper that is reusable, too. They also take up less space than rags and install anywhere, with a jumbo roll dispenser.

![WYPALL® Wipers](image2)

**LINKAGE PLIERS**

**NEW**

Use Linkage Pliers for those systems with linkage-type fusible link bracket assemblies. Makes changing links fast and easy. Made of high-carbon steel that’s nickel plated with PVC handle grips. A must for Ansul and Amerex system maintenance personnel.

![Linkage Pliers](image3)

**XTRALIS® VESDA® LASER-FOCUS® DETECTOR**

**NEW**

The xtralis® VESDA® Laser-Focus® detector is a very early warning smoke detector designed to protect small, business-critical environments of less than 500 m² (5,000 sq. ft.) The detector works by continually drawing air through sampling holes in a pipe network. The air is filtered and passed into a detection chamber where extremely small amounts of smoke are detected, while rejecting dust and other sources of false alarms.

![Xtralis® VESDA® Laser-Focus® Detector](image4)

**AED INSPECTION TAG**

**NEW**

The AED Inspection Tag is sold in packages of 100. White with Red print.

![AED Inspection Tag](image5)

**PLASTIC INSPECTION TAG**

Plastic Inspection Tag is for outside use. Will not tear, break, crack or become brittle with age. Unaffected by moisture, oils and grease. Twelve-month record on Yellow plastic.

![Plastic Inspection Tag](image6)

**BROOKS’ AIR HOSE REELS**

These retracting Brooks’ Air Hose Reels are long lasting, thanks to the top-quality materials that go into making them. The AHR49 is even tougher – made of steel that’s covered in a corrosion-resistant powder coating for extra-long life. It comes with 49’ of 3/8” rubber hose, and includes a multi-position ratchet lock, tension adjustment and a full-flow swivel that prevents leakage. A guide arm also cuts down on hose wear and tear, plus with nine adjustable positions, the reel can be mounted on the ceiling, floor or wall.

![Brooks’ Air Hose Reels](image7)