

- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
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- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
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- Ohio State Highway Patrol



Emergency Medical Services  
1970 West Broad Street  
P.O. Box 182073  
Columbus, Ohio 43218-2073  
(614) 466-9447 • (800) 233-0785  
www.ems.ohio.gov

**May 20, 2015**

**TO: Program Directors, Ohio Chartered Fire Training Institutions**

**FROM: Melvin House, Executive Director**  
**Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services**

**REF: Use of Simulators for Fire Extinguisher Practical Skill Testing**

Fire extinguisher practical skill evaluation requires both selection and operation of fire extinguishers using charged extinguishers and live fires.

The Ohio Division of EMS and the Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Subcommittee have not approved the use of simulator(s) to conduct fire extinguisher practical skill testing required for state certification **unless** the following conditions are met:

1. The simulation includes the use of live fire and actual extinguishers.
2. Multiple types of extinguishers must be available from which students must choose the appropriate extinguisher type.
3. The fire extinguisher that is chosen must completely extinguish the fire without the assistance of any type of instructor control device.

Selecting Class A fires for practical skill testing, with extinguishment using pressurized water and/or Class A foam extinguishers, may be the best option in an effort to control expenses associated with portable extinguisher rental and maintenance.

Please contact the Division of EMS Education Section at [FireEducation@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:FireEducation@dps.ohio.gov) or (614) 466-9447 with questions or concerns.

FIREFIGHTER I	PRACTICAL SKILL EVALUATION		
<b>Primary Task</b>	Select and Use a Fire Extinguisher Operating Portable Fire Extinguishers	<b>JPR(s)</b>	5.3.16
<b>Reference Source</b>	NFPA 1001 Standard, 2013 Edition	<b>Skill No.</b>	18-1
<b>Candidate Instruction</b>	The candidate, wearing full protective equipment and given a selection of portable fire extinguishers, shall extinguish an incipient Class A, B, or C fire so that the correct extinguisher is chosen, the fire is completely extinguished, and proper extinguisher handling techniques are followed.		State Maximum Allotted 3 minutes