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**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.