

MAKROSAFE Holdings (Pty) Ltd

SAFETY ALERT!

Fire Extinguisher Failure

The purpose of this safety alert is to highlight the dangers associated with fire extinguishers and suggest possible control measures to assist industry to manage the risk.

Background

A facility experienced a fire extinguisher cylinder failure. This particular fire extinguisher had been mounted on mobile equipment.

Contributing factors

The investigation identified areas of abnormal wear and fatigue on the fire extinguishers. This may have been caused by brackets / hardware that were used to mount the extinguisher to the mobile equipment.

Action Required

- ✓ Fire extinguishers on vehicles, forklifts, and anything outdoors or mobile are subject to more wear and fatigue than fire extinguishers in buildings. For this reason, vehicle-mounted extinguishers need to be inspected for rust or damage on a regular basis.
- ✓ Check for proper mounting of fire extinguishers where bolts or hinges can possibly rub on the extinguisher, creating a weak point.
- ✓ Check also for corrosion on the extinguisher.
- ✓ Fire extinguishers are under pressure and must be maintained properly to prevent a failure.

