

Fire Extinguishers

We wanted to take our time to advise all Texas boaters about some quick information concerning the recent requirements of fire extinguishers on your boat. As a surveyor our goal is to keep you safe. This is something we look at on all surveys.

According to Texas Parks and Wildlife all vessels from **16 feet up to 65 feet** must follow these requirements.

- Check fire extinguishers annually to assure that they are properly charged.
- All fire extinguishers must be readily accessible.
- They must also be in condition for immediate and effective use at all times.

Fire extinguishers are classified by a letter and a number. The letter is the **TYPE OF FIRE** it puts out and the number is the **SIZE** of the extinguisher.

USCG approved extinguishers:

- B-1 or B-2 (B- type can extinguish gasoline, oil, and grease fires.)
- 5-B or 20-B
- Have a specific marine-type mounting bracket



Important

Effective April 20, 2022, any non-rechargeable (disposable) fire extinguisher that is older than 12 years should be removed from service. Refer to the date of manufacturing stamped on the bottle (usual found on label or below bottle) for example, "10" means "2010."

What boats require a fire extinguisher?

You are required by law to have a fire extinguisher on board if your boat has an engine and meets any of the following conditions:

- Your boat has closed compartments where portable fuel tanks may be stored.
- Your boat has closed living spaces.
- Your boat has permanently installed fuel tanks.
- Or if your boat has any inboard engine.
- Your boat has a double bottom that is not sealed to the hull and that is not filled with flotation materials.

It is not required by law to carry a fire extinguisher on other types of boats, but it is still highly recommended. Fires can happen unexpectedly and it's always a smart idea to be prepared.

Important

The following information is effective **April 20, 2022**.

Vessels that have a model year of 2018 and newer may carry only 5-B or 20-B rated fire extinguishers with date stamp.

Vessels with a model year between 1953 and 2017 may carry either:

- Unexpired 5-B or 20-B rated fire extinguishers.
- Or B-I or B-II rated fire extinguishers that are in good and serviceable condition.

Below you will find a chart of the minimum number of fire extinguishers required

Length of Vessel	No. Of Extinguishers year 1953-2017	No. Of Extinguishers year 2018-newer	Location Example
Under 16 feet	1 B-1	1 5-B	steering position (mounted)
Boats 16 feet but under 26ft. in length	1 B-1	1 5-B	steering position (mounted) galley or passenger cockpit
Boats 26 ft. to under 40 ft. in length	2 B-1 or 1 B-2	2 5-B or 1 20-B	outside engine compartment, steering position (mounted) galley or cockpit
Boats 40 ft. and over, but not over 65 ft. in length	3 B-1 or 1 B-1 and 1 B-2	3 5-B or 1 20-B and 1 5-B	outside engine compartment, steering position (mounted) crew's quarters, galley or cockpit

Inboard engines	When the engine compartment is equipped with a fixed (built-in) extinguishing system, one less 5-B or B-1 extinguisher is required onboard.
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Note: One 20-B portable fire extinguisher may be substituted for two 5-B portable fire extinguishers. For vessels with a model year between 1953 and 2017, one 20-B/B-II portable fire extinguisher may be substituted for two 5-B/B-I portable fire extinguishers.