



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Fixed Fire Extinguishing System Servicing Safety in the Great Lakes Fleet

The Ninth District is issuing this commercial vessel safety alert to all Coast Guard Marine Inspectors, Owner/Operators, and service technicians of “Lakers” in winter lay-up status.

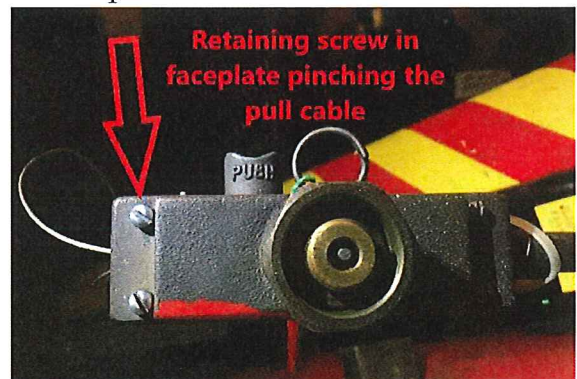
During the course of an inspection of a fixed carbon dioxide (CO₂) fire extinguishing system, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Inspectors discovered an inoperable remote actuation cable that could have resulted in catastrophic consequences.

While conducting tests of the fixed CO₂ system, the service technician could not actuate the pilot bottle control head via the remote pull from either of the two remote actuation stations. Upon investigation, it was discovered that the pull cable had been pierced by a retaining screw on the pilot bottle control head faceplate, preventing the actuator pin from firing.



The Coast Guard reminds Marine Inspectors, vessel owner/operators, and service technicians to consider the following during winter lay-up and spring breakout:

- Servicing technicians are required to be trained and familiar with systems they are certifying.
- Vessels should have maintenance and inspection procedures specific to the vessel fixed fire extinguishing systems onboard and available for review.
- After system testing and servicing is completed, verify the system has been returned to service, all releasing controls are properly installed, and all pilot cylinder heads and stop valves controls are in the correct or “set” position.
- Companies should have a vessel representative accompany the marine inspectors during critical oversight activities, including witnessing fire system inspections.
- Vessel operators and crewmembers are reminded of the requirement to report hazardous conditions, including any condition that may adversely affect the safety of a vessel.



- The requirements of 29 CFR 1915.89 lockout/tagout apply to the contents of compressed gas cylinders and should be followed by vessel owner/operator:

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/2012-11-20>

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1915/1915.89>

Further guidance on fixed system inspections and maintenance may be found in [Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular \(NVIC\) 09-00, CH-1, "Carbon Dioxide Fire Extinguishing System Safety"](#) and NFPA 12, "Standard on Carbon Dioxide Extinguishing Systems." This Safety Alert is provided for information purposes only and does not relieve any domestic or international safety, operational, or material requirement. For additional information or inquiries, please contact LT Michael Lewis at 218-725-3820, or email at michael.b.lewis@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,



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Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Chief, Prevention Division
By direction