Article by: Inspector David Klingler Fort Sill Fire Prevention Branch.

## **Improper Use Of Fire Extinguishers**

Fire extinguishers assigned to facilities are for that facility and are not authorized to be taken to the field, used for transporting ammunition, used in vehicles to include MHE type equipment.

This means fire extinguishers used in the field and vehicles will have to be purchased by the units. This will also require the units to pay for the required servicing at defined intervals and recharge if they are discharged as well.

Fire extinguishers assigned to facilities at Fort Sill must be taken to Fire Station #2, 5031 Post Road that is located across from the airfield.

Time for turn in of these extinguishers is Tuesday and Thursday 0830 – 1100. If the reason for having the fire extinguisher serviced is for required dates to be serviced, bleed off of pressure inside of the extinguisher or using it during a fire.

A memorandum must be provided stating what the circumstances were. If a fire, a fire report must accompany the memorandum. If unknown cause then it must so state reasons are unknown or facts and circumstances surrounding the discharge. This memorandum must also certify this extinguisher had not been taken to the field. Must be signed by the Battery Commander.

It is highly recommended that units purchase several 2.5-gallon fire extinguishers to take to the field. Water is a much better agent for extinguishing grass fires and other natural cover fires. Dry chemical extinguishers are not the extinguisher of choice due to the fact water can get into deep penetrating fires.

Several instances of accidental discharge could be eliminated if wood was purchased and a box constructed with compartments to allow each fire extinguisher to have its own individual compartments. It would then sit up right and not be able to move around in the trucks. This in itself would save money in damage and accidental discharges.