

08-01
Jan • 2008

AFCESA



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TARGET AUDIENCE:

Base Civil Engineers, Fire Prevention, Facility Managers, Housing Managers

Special Range-Top Fire Extinguishing Systems

Synopsis

There is a potential safety hazard related to a special type of range-top fire extinguishing system. The system may be inoperable because the safety pin is left in place after initial installation or annual maintenance. This particular system is required when residential-type ranges are installed in locations other than living units and the ranges are not fire-safe.

Detail

Headquarters Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency and the Air Force Safety Center advise all MAJCOMs that a potential fire safety issue has been identified related to residential-type range-top fire extinguishing systems. Failure of a range-top system to activate may have been a significant factor in causing a large loss in a recent fire on an AF installation.

- The residential-type range-top fire extinguishing system is similar in appearance to a portable fire extinguisher.
- Checks of portable fire extinguishers include verification that the safety pin is installed.
- However, checks of range-top fire extinguishing systems must include verification that the safety pin is **NOT** installed.

Base Civil Engineers need to verify that the safety pin is **NOT** left installed on range-top fire extinguishing systems – including after annual maintenance.

At one base, 4 out of 5 systems inspected were found to be inoperable because the system safety pin had not been removed following initial installation or after annual maintenance. The manufacturers of these systems recommend yearly replacement of the fusible link – the safety pin needs to be in place when accomplishing this maintenance. **Following the maintenance, the safety pin must be removed** or the system will not operate in the event of a fire.



Above: Typical system installation. Right top: Fusible link. Right center: Safety pin in place. Right bottom: Safety pin removed.