

Policies regarding fire extinguisher training

Information compiled October 27, 2005

The Question: Do you provide fire extinguisher training for your coach operators? If so, why, or if not, why not.

Ben Franklin Transit says... Yes, we do provide initial training for our Coach Operators in the use of the on-board fire extinguisher during the seven weeks of "Basic Training." They also receive occasional reminders to be sure to check the expiration dates on the inspection tags during the pre-trip inspection.

Clallam Transit says... We have done this in the past, although it has been a while. We are looking at setting up training once again, and of course the reason is so that operators have the proper instruction on how, and when to use an extinguisher.

Columbia County Public Transportation says... At this time, we do not provide this training however I am in the process of trying to set something up with our local fire department.

Community Transit says... We currently do not, our reasoning is that we want them to evacuate the bus and not be a hero.

CUBS says... We provide fire extinguisher training for all the coach operators. This is done once a year during a driver's meeting. The training is provided by the Longview Fire Department.

Jefferson Transit says... We have fire extinguisher training for operators through Tarboo Fire just south of here (the same company that inspects our extinguishers). Not all operators have actually put out a live fire, but some have. Fire extinguisher operation is covered for all operators during initial training. The reason – I guess familiarity makes it more likely that the operator will use the equipment, and be effective with it.

Kitsap Transit says... The only fire extinguisher training we do is what is covered in new driver training; and that amounts to having them learn where the extinguisher is on each type of coach and how to check to see if it is still charged (this is a pre trip check item). We probably also tell them something like "point it at the fire" but nothing more formal.

Link Transit says... Yes, our local fire district trains our new hire Coach Operator Classes and on occasion trains our administrative staff on fire and the different types of extinguishers to use. The class concludes hands-on with each participant using an extinguisher to put out a fire.

Skagit Transit says... the answer is yes. I provide classroom fire extinguisher training annually as required by L&I. In the past, we have provided "hands-on" training were the operator actually put out a fire with a chemical fire extinguisher. Because of budgeting constraints, I haven't done this in a couple of years. In either case, the coach operators are always told that the safety of the passengers comes first. After all passengers are off the coach they can start thinking about fighting the fire.

Whatcom Transit says... Nope.