Sending your SPA AFFF fire bottle to Pegasus for service and recertification

US DOT regulations require very specific packaging and labeling when shipping pressurized cylinders, and only certain shippers are certified by UPS or FedEx to ship pressurized cylinders. For these reasons, special procedures must be followed when you send in your SPA AFFF fire bottle for service.

You may want to start by checking locally for an approved Hazardous Materials shipper who is willing to ship your fully charged fire bottle to us; however, the cost to ship a pressurized bottle will be higher than the cost to ship an empty bottle. If you can't find a willing shipper, you will need to depressurize your bottle.

Please note!

New US DOT regulations require hydrostatic testing on all bottles older than 5 years. We can perform this test for an additional fee. Unfortunately, almost all SPA bottles with a single weld seam in the center have failed this new test. Later bottles with two weld seams (one at each end) have a much higher passing rate.

If your bottle has a single weld seam around the middle of the bottle, please be aware that there is a 99% chance we will not be able to refill it. Bottles which do not pass the hydrostatic test are no longer safe to use and must be destroyed.

All bottles

To depressurize your bottle, first take the bottle outside to an open area that you can spray down with a garden hose afterwards. The foam rinses away with plain water, but it is very slippery and can create a hazard if it is not cleaned up.

Wear eye protection and be sure to point the outlet in a safe direction, away from people and animals. The foam can shoot out under enough pressure to cause injuries.

Mechanical bottles

Hold the bottle firmly with one hand and grasp the handles with your other hand. With the bottle pointed in a safe direction, squeeze the handles together to open the valve. You can start off by opening the valve just far enough to bleed off pressure and then open farther as the pressure is released. Close the valve by pulling the handles apart. Your bottle is now ready to ship.

Electrical bottles - Method 1

The firing head is held in place by a very thin hex nut under the rotating portion of the head. Unscrew the nut to remove the head, exposing the valve below. Point the opening in a safe direction and carefully press down on the spring-loaded center portion of the valve. This will open the valve like a tire valve, allowing the pressurized fluid to escape. This method is tricky and may require a few tries, but it will save you the cost of a replacement firing head.

Electrical bottles - Method 2

Hold the bottle firmly with one hand and point the firing head discharge outlet in a safe direction. Use jumper wires to connect a 9 volt battery to two pins on the firing head. A correct connection will cause a loud pop inside the firing head, which is the sound of the valve being forced open.

Let the bottle drain as well as possible. Wrap the bottle in a plastic bag to keep any remaining fluid from damaging your shipping box. Ship the empty bottle to us along with your contact information.

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