FIRE EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

Saving Lives, Protecting Property.

October 27, 2026

## FRAUD ALERT: Scams Targeting Fire Equipment Distributors

The Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association (FEMA) is sharing information received about reported fraudulent activity targeting fire equipment distributors in the Bronx, New York area. The schemes reportedly involve fraudulent fire extinguisher orders using stolen customer information and credit cards, as well as payment requests from individuals impersonating extinguisher manufacturers and seeking a distributor's payment of falsely claimed past-due balances. FEMA has not conducted any review of this reported activity or confirmed the accuracy of this information.

Businesses are encouraged to remain vigilant and independently verify orders and payment requests before shipping products or transferring funds.

**Fraudulent Fire Extinguisher Orders**

This reported scheme involves individuals contacting distributors by phone or email to place large orders for fire extinguishers, commonly 10 lb. and 20 lb. ABC units from various manufacturers, with delivery requested to a location in the Bronx, New York.

The orders may include convincing but fraudulent credit applications using stolen personal or business information. Payment may be attempted with stolen credit cards, potentially resulting in losses after products have been shipped.

**Possible precautions include:**

- Independently verify the customer and shipping address before fulfilling the order.
- Exercise caution with generic email addresses, including Gmail accounts, particularly when other warning signs are present.
- Validate credit applications and verify questionable credit card transactions with the payment processor before shipping.
- Apply additional scrutiny to large orders, unusual shipping arrangements and requests involving the reported Bronx destination.

**Fraudulent Manufacturer Payment Requests**
In a separate reported scheme, individuals impersonate extinguisher manufacturers and request payment of purported past-due balances, potentially directing funds to fraudulent recipients.

**Possible precautions include:**

- Contact the extinguisher manufacturer directly using established contact information to verify the outstanding balance and payment request.
- Independently confirm any changes to payment instructions or banking information.
- Do not transfer funds until the request and payment details have been verified.

**Help protect your business.** You may share this alert as appropriate with employees responsible for sales, order processing, credit approval, shipping and accounting. Following established verification procedures can help prevent fraudulent shipments and financial losses.