

Reliability Evaluation of Fire Extinguisher – An Innovative Safety Approach

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Abstract:- Reliability evaluation of an engineering system or component or element is very important in order to predict its availability or unavailability and other important indices related to the component or system as a whole. Reliability is the variable which tells about the availability or unavailability of the component under proper working conditions for a given period of time. In this paper a study based on reliability analysis of fire extinguishers installed for safety purpose is evaluated and different variable are obtained. A Fire Extinguisher is very important to control in case of fire for safety purpose.

Keywords:- Reliability, Availability, Fire Extinguisher, Fire Fighting, Safety.

I. INTRODUCTION

A Markov cut-set composite approach was proposed by Singh et al. [1]. The reliability indices have been determined at any point of composite system by conditional probability approach by Billinton et al. [2]. Wojczynski et al. [3] discussed DS simulation studies. New indices based on probabilistic models and fuzzy concepts were presented by Verma et al. [4]. Various reliability indices studies were presented [5-9]. Different methods for reliability of distribution system were discussed [10-15]. Studies based on fault tree, safety, DS reliability are presented [16-24]. Tiwary et al. [25] has discussed a methodology for evaluation of customer orientated indices and reliability of a meshed power distribution system. Reliability evaluation of engineering system is discussed [26]. Battu et al. [27] discussed a method using MCS. Various reliability assessment has been presented [28-31].

Fire Extinguisher is very important in order to control fire at a particular place. In order to minimize the effect of fire at any location proper utilization along with the reliability of the equipment is very important aspect to look after. Therefore there is need for evaluation of the reliability. In this paper reliability evaluation of Fire Extinguishers installed for safety is done and different reliability parameters are obtained.



Fig. 1(i) Fire Extinguisher



Fig. 1(ii) Fire Extinguisher

II. RELIABILITY EVALUATION OF COMPONENTS AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

The reliability of the system having constant failure rate is evaluated by using the following relation.

$$R(t) = e^{-\lambda t} \tag{1}$$

Where $R(t)$ represents the reliability of each component. λ represents the failure rate per year and t represents time period which is taken as one year.

The mean time to failure (MTTF) can be obtained as follows:

$$MTTF = 1/\lambda \tag{2}$$

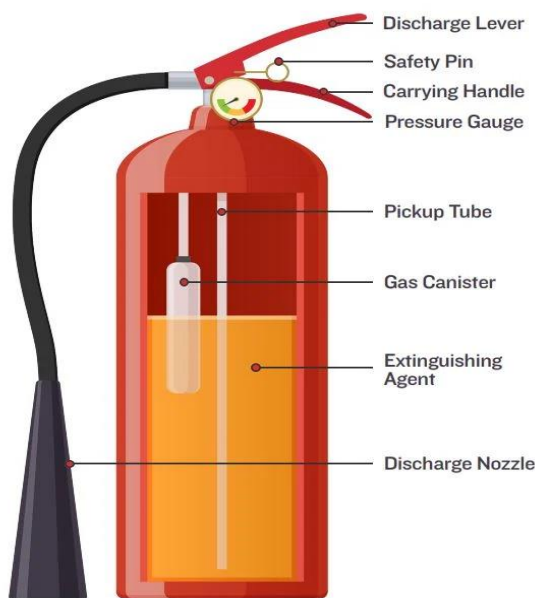


Fig. 2 Component description of Fire Extinguisher

Symbols found on fire extinguishers & what they mean		Water	Foam spray	ABC powder	Carbon dioxide	Wet chemical
Wood, paper & textiles		✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Flammable liquids		✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Flammable gases		✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Electrical contact		✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cooking oils & fats		✗	✗	✗	✗	✓

Fig. 3 Description of different types of Fire Extinguisher

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows the initial data for the fire extinguishers. Total number of seven fire extinguishers was taken for the study purpose. Table 2 provides the evaluated reliability for each and every fire extinguishers. For fire extinguishers 1 to 7 evaluated reliability value are 0.991536, 0.992528, 0.992032, 0.998002, 0.996606, 0.994615 and 0.995212 respectively. Table 3 gives up the value of MTTF of each and every fire extinguishers taken for the study. Fig. 1 provides the magnitude of reliability of each and every fire extinguisher from 1 to 7. Fig. 2 gives magnitude of MTTF.

Table 1: Initial data for different fire extinguishers.

fire extinguisher	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Failure rate(*10 ⁻⁴)	85	75	80	20	34	54	48

Table 2: Evaluated reliability for different fire extinguishers.

fire extinguisher	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Evaluated Reliability	0.991536	0.992528	0.992032	0.998002	0.996606	0.994615	0.995212

Table 3: Evaluated MTTF for different fire extinguishers.

fire extinguisher	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Evaluated MTTF	117.64	113.33	125.00	500.00	294.11	185.18	208.33

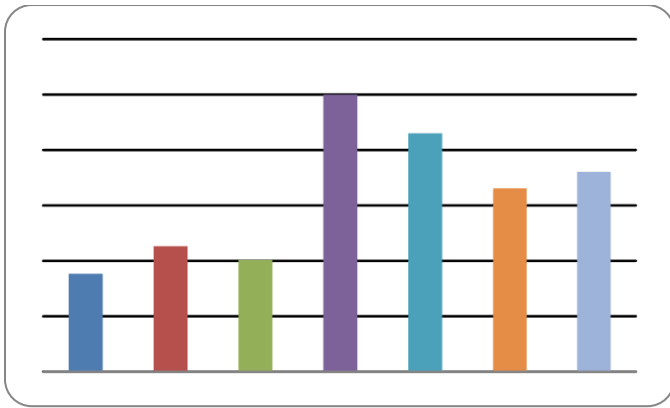


Figure 1: Magnitude of Evaluated reliability for different fire extinguishers.

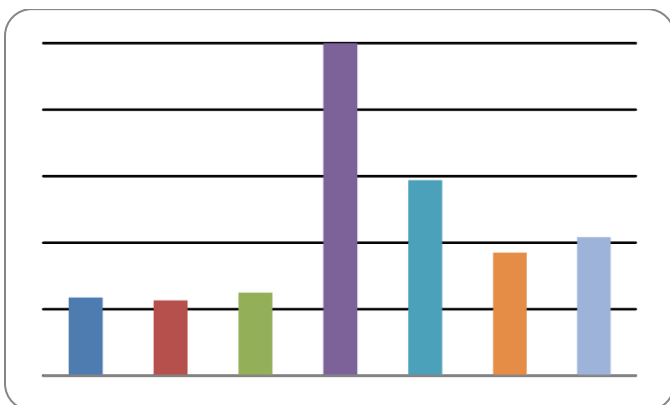


Figure 2: Magnitude of Evaluated MTTF for different fire extinguishers.

IV. CONCLUSION

Reliability evaluation of an engineering system or component or element is very important in order to predict its availability or unavailability and other important indices. In this paper reliability evaluation of fire extinguishers is done and different reliability parameters are obtained. The reliability is evaluated based on the failure rate provided. Mean time to failure (MTTF) an important indices is also obtained for the each and every fire extinguisher.

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