

U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

Coffee Break Training

Topic: Explosives Magazines

Learning objective: The student shall be able to describe the differences between and among explosive magazine types.

Due to their dangerous properties, explosives must be stored in secure areas protected from fire, weather, theft, bullets, and other hazards. The most common storage method is to place the explosives in a magazine.

Magazines are categorized by “types” depending upon their construction, features, use, location, and the type of explosive materials they will contain. Magazines must be constructed in accordance with the requirements of NFPA 495, *Explosive Materials Code*; NFPA 1124, *Code for the Manufacture, Transportation, Storage, and Retail Sale of Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles*; or U.S. Department of Treasury 27 CFR 55, *Commerce in Explosives*.

The basic magazine types and their construction requirements are summarized in the following table.

Type	Description
1	Ventilated permanent structure such as a building or igloo that is bullet-, fire-, theft-, and weather-resistant.
2	Ventilated portable or mobile structure such as a box, skid-magazine, trailer, or semi-trailer that is fire-, theft-, and weather-resistant. If outdoors, it also must be bullet-resistant.
3	A fire-, theft-, and weather-resistant “day box” or portable structure for temporary storage.
4	Permanent, portable, or mobile structure such as a building, igloo, box, semi-trailer, or other mobile container that is fire-, theft-, and weather-resistant.
5	Permanent, portable, or mobile structure such as a building, igloo, box, bin, tank, semi-trailer, bulk trailer, tank trailer, bulk truck, tank truck, or other mobile container that is theft-resistant.
Indoor	Portable, such as box or bin, meeting the construction requirements of Type 2, 4, or 5 magazines. Must be fire- and theft-resistant.

For additional information, refer to *International Fire Code*[®], Chapter 33; or *NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code*[™], Chapter 65.

The area around these Type 2 magazines should be cleared of brush and grass for a 25-foot perimeter.

