

Safety...



Dear Editor,

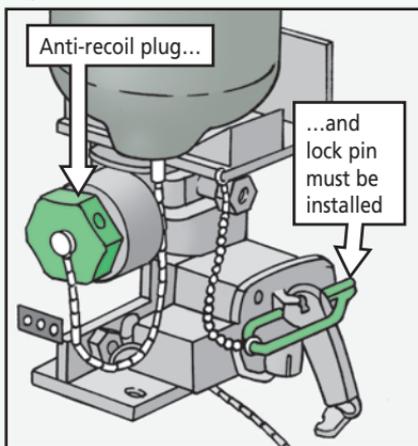
The importance of fire extinguisher safety can never be overstated. Recently, a mechanic was replacing a faulty hull power distribution unit (HPDU) on an M1A2 tank. In order to access the HPDU, he had to remove the crew fire bottle from the driver's compartment.

After installing the new HPDU, he was replacing the fire bottle when it discharged, spraying him with Halon and making him bump his head. The Soldier ended up with a ruptured eardrum and second degree burns.

It turns out that the mechanic overlooked the crucial step of installing the anti-recoil plug and lock pin before removing the fire bottle.

Without these two items installed, there's nothing to prevent an accidental discharge like the one this Soldier experienced. Can you remind Soldiers of how important these safety items are?

Terry D. Smart  
PM HBCT Safety Manager, TACOM



**Editor's note:** Consider it done, Terry! This particular Soldier got lucky because the fire bottle was actually secured before it discharged. An unsecured bottle can be a dangerous rocket, bouncing around inside of your vehicle. **Always** make installing the anti-recoil plug and lock pin the first step any time you remove a fire bottle. A new video on automatic fire extinguisher systems (AFES) is now available on the Unit Training Assistance Program (UTAP) website: <https://utap.army.mil>. On your first visit, you'll be prompted to register your CAC. Once that's completed, click the Agree button and select the VIDEOS tab. Under UTAP Produced Videos, select Introduction to Fire Suppression Systems. You'll be prompted to save or open the video.