

Emergency Preparedness Guide

**For
Disasters**

Fire Safety

Disasters Happen: Are You Ready?



**For area specific disaster information contact:
Your local Emergency Management Office**

Website:

**Washington State Emergency Management
www.mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division**



Prepared by Washington State Emergency Management



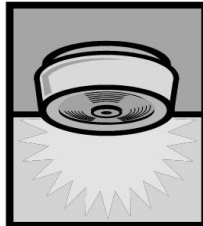
Fire Safety

“Carbon Monoxide” video: www.youtube.com/user/EMDPrepare

Fires in homes are most often caused by cooking accidents, smoking, or unsafe use of woodstoves or space heaters. Here are some things you can do to avoid a home fire.

Fire Extinguisher, Smoke Alarms, and Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors:

- Install ABC fire extinguishers in your home and teach family members how to use them.
- Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors should be installed on every level of your residence, outside bedrooms on the ceiling or high on the wall, at the top of open stairways (or the bottom of enclosed stairs) and near (but not in) the kitchen.
- Smoke alarms and CO detectors should be tested and cleaned once a month and the batteries should be replaced once a year.
- Smoke alarms and CO detectors should be replaced very 10 years.



Flammable Items:

- Never use gasoline, kerosene or similar flammable liquids indoors. Store them in approved containers in well-ventilated storage areas.
- Discard all rags and materials that have been soaked in flammable liquids. Place them outdoors in a metal container.

Matches and Smoking:

- Store matches and lighters up high, away from children and if possible in a locked cabinet.
- Never smoke in bed or when drowsy or medicated.
- Douse cigarette and cigar butts with water before disposal.

Heating Sources:

- Use alternative heat sources, such as woodstoves or space heaters, safely.
- Never use gas ovens, gas ranges, barbecues, or most portable or propane heaters for indoor heating.
- Before using an alternative heat source, read the manufacture’s instructions.
- Check with you local fire department on the legality of using kerosene heaters in your community. Fill kerosene heaters outside and ensure they are cool before filling.
- Place heaters a least three feet away from flammable materials. Make sure the floor and nearby wall are properly insulated.

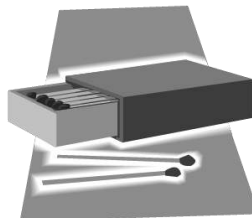
Electrical Wiring:

- Inspect extension cords for frayed or exposed wires and loose plugs.
- Make sure outlets have cover plates and that no wires are exposed.
- Do not overload extension cords or outlets. If you need to plug in two or more applicants, get a UL-approved unit with a built-in circuit breaker.



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Camp Murray, WA 98430-5122

Web site: www.mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division
253-512-7000; (800) 562-6108



Fire Safety



Most fires occur between midnight and the early morning hours, when people are sleeping. Know what actions to take - *before, during, and after a fire accident.*

Exiting Buildings:

- If there is a fire or when the alarms sounds leave immediately. Total and immediate evacuation is safest. Do not try to fight the fire; do not go back inside. Call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house.
- Know the location of all exits including the windows. If you live in an apartment, count the number of doorways between your apartment and the two nearest exits.
- If the nearest exit is blocked by fire, heat, or smoke go to another exit.
- If you must escape through a closed door, check for heat before opening it. Use the back of your hand to feel the top of the door, the doorknob, and the crack between the door and door frame before you open it. If it is hot, do not open it and escape through a window.
- If you must move through flames - hold your breath, move quickly, cover your head and hair, keep your head down, and close your eyes as much as possible.
- If your clothes catch fire, "stop, drop, and roll" until the fire is out.
- If caught in smoke - drop to your hands and knees and crawl, breathe shallowly through your nose and use your blouse, shirt, or jacket as a filter.
- If you are in a room and cannot escape, leave the door closed, stay low to the floor and hang a white or light colored sheet outside the window to alert fire fighters of your presence.
- Always use an exit stairway, not an elevator. Elevator shafts may fill with smoke or the power may fail leaving you trapped.

If You have a Disability:

- Plan ahead for fire emergencies.
- Be aware of your own capabilities and limitations.
- Plan for assistance in the event of an emergency.
- Look for "areas of refuge" like stair enclosures.
- Do not use elevators or try to descend stairs in a wheelchair.

Other Fire Information:

- Make sure your house number is clearly visible from the street and that fire trucks can reach your home.
- If you live in a multiple-level home or residence, you should purchase collapsible ladders and practice using them.
- Sleep with the doors closed to reduce potential exposure to smoke and flames.
- Be sure all family members are accounted for. If someone is missing, let the fire department know.

After a Fire:

- Check for injuries and provide first aid and CPR, if you are trained to do so.
- Do not enter fire-damaged structure unless authorities say it is safe.
- Beware of structural damage since roof and floors may have been weakened.
- If you have a safe or strong box, do not try to open it. It can hold intense heat for several hours. If the door is opened before the box has cooled, the contents could burst into flames.
- Call your insurance agent to report any damage.



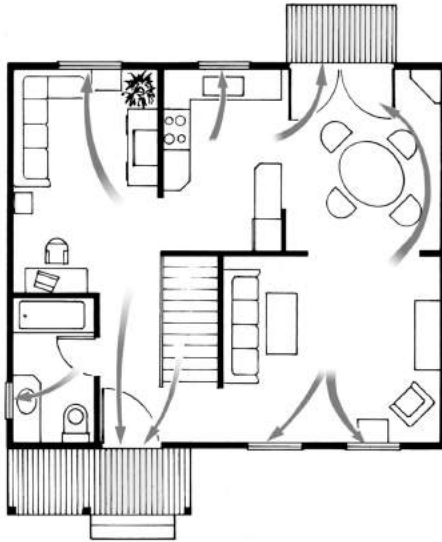
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Pre-planning: key to your safety. When it comes to fire – *be smart!* If the fire is too big for you to handle, immediately get out of the house. Don't stop to gather anything or to do anything. Once you are outside, stay outside. Intense heat and toxic fumes can kill you.



Planning & practicing fire safety:

1. Choose a reunion place outside your home. Our fire reunion place is:

- Regularly remind all household members where this place is.
2. Draw the floor plan of your home and discuss two ways to exit each room.
 3. Hold a fire drill at least twice each year. Blindfolded, practice crawling your exit routes to simulate getting out of a smoke-filled house.

Fire extinguishers:

- Locate your fire extinguishers with care. Ready access to them is critical. Fire moves quickly – quick access can be the difference between putting a small fire out or suffering much damage.
- Several smaller extinguishers located throughout the house are better than one large one that may be difficult to get to quickly.
- Key places for your extinguishers are:
 - the kitchen
 - the garage
 - one on every level if your home has multiple floors

ABC extinguishers are recommended:

"A" fires:

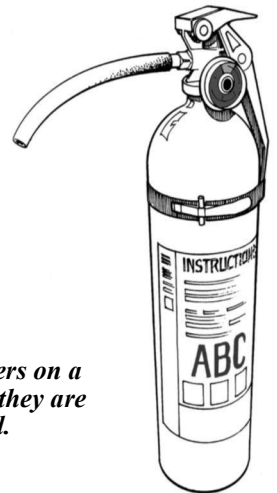
Ordinary combustibles such as wood, paper, cloth, and many plastics.

"B" fires:

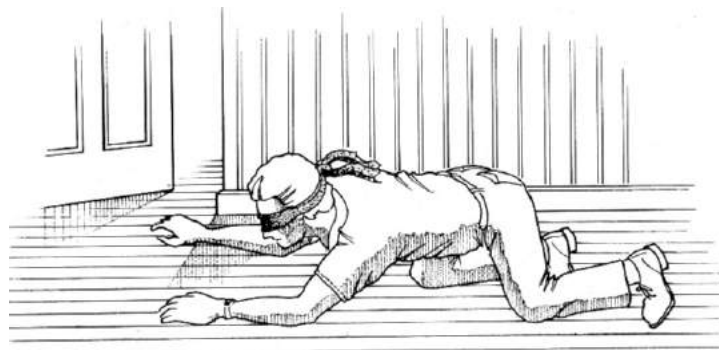
Flammable liquids such as gasoline, paints, kitchen grease, and oils.

"C" fires:

Electrical equipment such as fires in wiring, motors, and appliances.



Check your extinguishers on a regular basis to ensure they are properly charged.



(Fire Safety continued on next page)



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“Fire Extinguisher” video: www.youtube.com/user/EMDPrepare

Using a fire extinguisher:

- Try to keep calm.
- VITAL: Keep an escape route open between you and the *small* fire you are attempting to extinguish. If the fire is large or becomes too large, immediately get out of the house.
- Close the door on your way out to slow the spread of flames.
- Always point the extinguisher at the base of the fire rather than at the top of the flames. Remember, if the fire is too big for you to handle, immediately get yourself and your family out of the house. Don't stop to gather anything or to do anything. Seconds can make all the difference.
- Once you are outside, stay outside. Intense heat and toxic fumes can kill you in seconds.

Possible fires following earthquakes:

• Natural gas fires –

First, shut off the gas.

Second, put the fire out by using an extinguisher, dirt, or water.

• Electrical fires –

First, shut off the electricity.

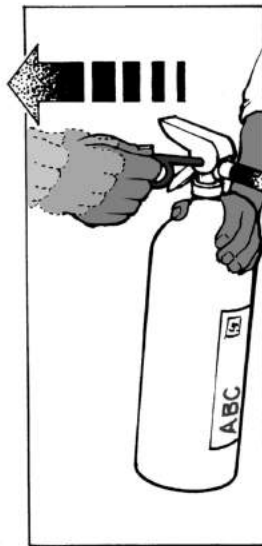
Second, put out the fire by using an extinguisher, dirt, or water.

(CAUTION: If the electricity cannot be shut off, DO NOT use water on the fire.)

• Oil or grease fires –

Use baking soda, a lid, a bread board, or a fire extinguisher to smother the flames.
NEVER use water on a grease or an oil fire.

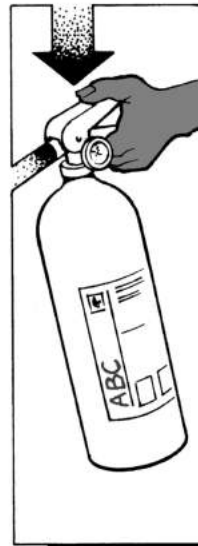
P.A.S.S. - a proven and effective system for putting out fires



P. Pull the pin.



A. Aim at the base of the fire.



S. Squeeze the handle.



S. Sweep the hose side to side.



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