

Fire



CERT Basic Training Hazards

Dangers of Fire

- Asphyxiation
- Heat
- Smoke



Fire Statistics



- 85% of all fire deaths occur where people sleep, mostly during night
- Most are preventable
- 2006: 2,620 people died in reported home fires in the U.S.
 - Victims are disproportionately children or elderly

Developing a Family Fire Plan

- Install smoke alarms
- Identify two escape routes
- Practice escape plan
- Practice alerting family members
- Learn fire department's emergency number

If a Fire Starts

- Yell “Fire!” several times
- Get out quickly
- Go to meeting place
- Call fire department



If You Can't Escape

- Stuff wet cloth around doors and vents
- Call fire department
- Open windows slightly at top and bottom
- Stay low and by a window
- Hang or wave a bright-colored or white cloth at the window

Preventing Fires

- Conduct home hazard hunt
- Inspect wood stoves and chimneys annually
- Purchase only “laboratory-tested” heaters
- Keep heaters at least 3 feet from any flammable items

Preventing Fires (contd.)

- Keep matches and lighters away from children
- Check electrical wiring
- Keep combustibles away from stove

3 Classes of Wildfires

- Surface fire
- Ground fire
- Crown fire



Wildfire Preparedness

- Keep garden hose long enough to reach any area of home
- Get portable gasoline-powered water pump if pool, lake, or stream is available
- Equip chimneys and stovepipes with spark arresters



Wildfire Preparedness (contd.)

- Keep fire tools handy
- Use proper building and landscape design
 - Create “defensible space” or “safety zone”
 - Use fireproof or fire resistant roofing



During a Wildfire

- Listen for emergency information
- Confine pets to one room or arrange for them to stay with a friend or relative
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the home
- Remove flammable drapes and curtains
- Close all doors and windows

After a Wildfire

- Use caution when reentering
- Inspect the roof immediately
- Have propane or heating oil tanks inspected
- Check the stability of trees around the home
- If there is no power, check the main breaker