

How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan

100 YEARS 1922-2022



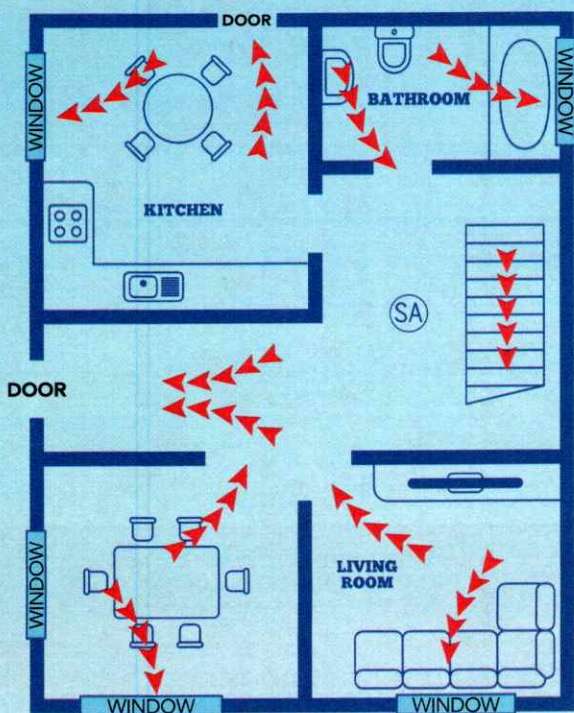
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™



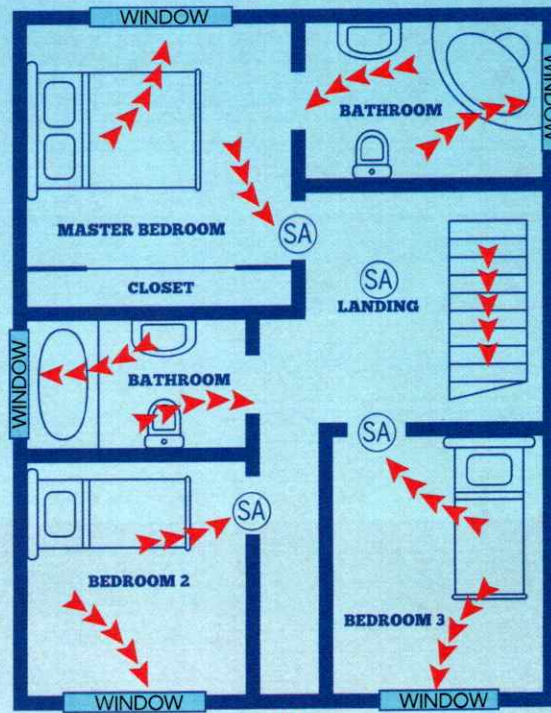
Visit Sparky.org
for more activities!

- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to dial 911 or your local emergency number.
- Practice your home fire drill!
- Make your own home fire escape plan using the grid provided on page 2.

Sample Escape Plan



1st FLOOR



2nd FLOOR



Kids

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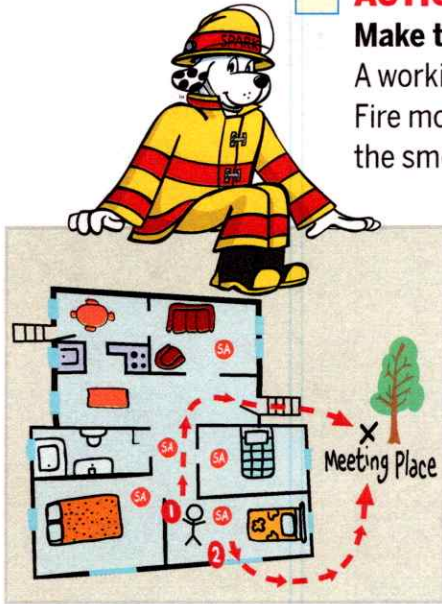
The _____ Family's **Home Safety Action Plan**

ACTION #1

Make the first Saturday of each month "Smoke Alarm Saturday"!

A working smoke alarm will clue you in that there is a fire and you need to escape. Fire moves fast. You and your family could have only minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

- Smoke alarms should be installed in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test all of your smoke alarms by pushing the test button. If it makes a loud beep, beep, beep sound, you know it's working. If there is no sound or the sound is low, it's time to replace the battery. If the smoke alarm is older than 10 years old, you need to replace the whole unit.
- If your smoke alarm makes a "chirp," that means it needs a new battery. Change the battery right away.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the alarm and what to do when it sounds. (See ACTION #2.)



ACTION #2

Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it at least twice a year!

Having a home fire escape plan will make sure everyone knows what to do when the smoke alarm sounds so they can get out safely.

- Draw a map of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors.
- Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure they are part of the plan.
- Make sure all escape routes are clear and that doors and windows open easily.
- Pick an outside meeting place (something permanent like a neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) that is a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet.
- Everyone in the home should know the fire department's emergency number and how to call once they are safely outside.
- Practice! Practice! Practice! Practice day and nighttime home fire drills. Share your home escape plans with overnight guests.

REMEMBER:

When You Hear a Beep, Get On Your Feet!

Get out and stay out. Call **9-1-1** from your outside meeting place.

Hear a Chirp, Make a Change!

A chirping alarm needs attention. Replace the batteries or the entire alarm if it is older than 10 years old. If you don't remember how old it is, replace it.



Spring Into Action

Home Maintenance Spring Checklist

- **Check** roof for missing, loose, or damaged shingles.
- **Check** chimney and roof vents for any nests and animal infestation.
- **Clean and inspect** gutters and downspouts.
- **Check and touch up** exterior paint.
- **Test** smoke and carbon dioxide alarms and change batteries.
- **Clean** debris from dryer lint trap and exhaust duct.
- **Remove** dead leaves and other debris around foundations, decks, porches, and stairs.
- **Check** grills for rust, worn parts, insects, grease, and other debris before use.
- **Use** grills at least 10 feet away from the house or any building.
- **Inspect** caulking and seams on doors and windows.
- **Check** for cracks or leaks around the foundation.
- **Drain and flush** sediment from water heater and check for leaks or corrosion
- **Clean** ducts and filters on HVAC system.
- **Trim trees** that are touching or overhang the roof or gutters.
- **Power wash** vinyl siding.
- **Inspect** caulking around base of shower and sinks, scrape it out, and replace if needed.
- **Vacuum** under refrigerator and clean condenser coils.
- **Clean** kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans.



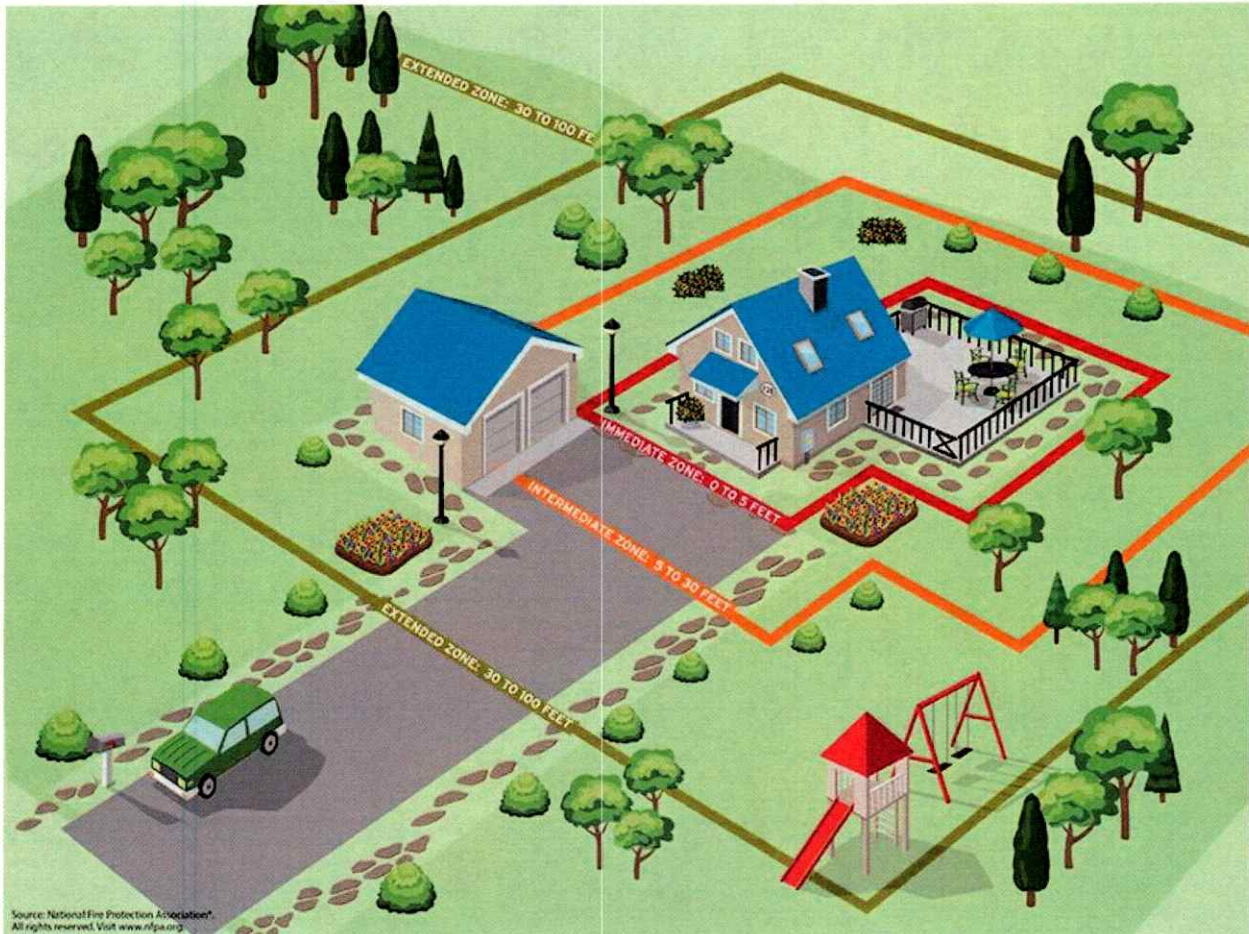
Keep Cool

Home Maintenance Summer Checklist

- **Check** your A/C unit and change or clean air filters.
- **Trim** any trees, bushes, shrubs, and apply fertilizer to lawn.
- **Power wash** windows and siding. Repaint or touch up siding, if needed.
- **Clean** lint from dryer exhaust.
- **Clean** and organize garage.
- **Check and replace** the grout or caulking around kitchen sinks, tubs, and toilets.
- **Clean** chimney.
- **Inspect** all plumbing around the house for leaks and clean aerators and faucets.
- **Inspect** basement/crawl space for any type of moisture issue and repair, if needed.
- **Clean** deck. Check and replace rotting and loose boards and re-stain, if needed.
- **Inspect** fencing and repair, if needed.
- **Check** roof for missing, loose, or damaged shingles, and repair if needed.



AMERIND's Safety Services Team recognizes the risks associated with wildfire season approaching. Utilizing defensible space and taking the correct precautions to prevent wildfires could help mitigate losses you may face during a wildfire.



Before a wildfire threatens your area...

In and around your home

- Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches, and decks. This prevents embers from igniting your home.
- Remove dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch, and within 10 feet of the house.
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.



- Remove flammable materials (firewood stacks, propane tanks) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch.
- Wildfire can spread to treetops. Prune trees so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
- Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- Inspect shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration.
- Cover exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.
- Enclose under-eave and soffit vents or screens with metal mesh to prevent ember entry.

Creating an emergency plan

- Assemble an emergency supply kit and place it in a safe spot. Remember to include important documents, medications, and personal identification.
- Develop an emergency evacuation plan and practice it with everyone in your home.
- Plan two ways out of your neighborhood and designate a meeting place.

In your community:

- Contact your local planning/zoning office to find out if your home is in a high wildfire risk area, and if there are specific local or county ordinances you should be following.
- If you are part of a homeowner association, work with them to identify regulations that incorporate proven preparedness landscaping, home design and building material use.
- Talk to your local fire department about how to prepare, when to evacuate, and the response you and your neighbors can expect in the event of a wildfire.
- Learn about wildfire risk reduction efforts, including how land management agencies use prescribed fire to manage local landscapes.
- Learn how you can make a positive difference in your community.

During the time a wildfire is in your area...

- Stay aware of the latest news and updates from your local media and fire department. Get your family, home and pets prepared to evacuate.
- Place your emergency supply kit and other valuables in your vehicle.
- Move patio or deck furniture, cushions, door mats and potted plants in wooden containers either indoors or as far away from the home, shed and garage as possible.



- Close and protect your home's openings, including attic and basement doors and vents, windows, garage doors and pet doors to prevent embers from penetrating your home.
- Connect garden hoses and fill any pools, hot tubs, garbage cans, tubs, or other large containers with water. Firefighters have been known to use the hoses to put out fires on rooftops.
- Leave as early as possible, before you're told to evacuate. Do not linger once evacuation orders have been given. Promptly leaving your home and neighborhood clears roads for firefighters to get equipment in place to fight the fire and helps ensure residents' safety.

After a wildfire has been contained...

- Continue to listen to news updates for information about the fire. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Visit [FEMA/Ready.gov](https://www.fema.gov/ready) for more information regarding wildfire after an emergency.

The focus of AMERIND's Safety Services Team is to share knowledge, identify risks, and remove hazards in Tribal Communities. We provide comprehensive Safety Training that includes Wildfire Safety Training and defensible space risk consultation to keep you and your organization safe. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to email the AMERIND Safety Services team at SafetyServicesTeam@amerind.com or call us at 800-352-3496.





Home smoke alarm safety

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

SAFETY TIPS

- ▲ Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- ▲ Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- ▲ It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- ▲ Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- ▲ Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- ▲ Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- ▲ A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- ▲ People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- ▲ Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public Education / Fire causes & risks / Seasonal fire causes / Grilling

Grilling



When the warmer weather hits, there's nothing better than the smell of food on the grill.

Seven out of every 10 adults in the U.S. have a grill or smoker*, which translates to a lot of tasty meals. But it also means there's an increased risk of home fires.

In 2017-2021, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 11,421 home** fires involving grills, hibachis, or barbecues per year, including an average of 5,763 structure fires and 5,659 outside or unclassified fires.

Free downloads

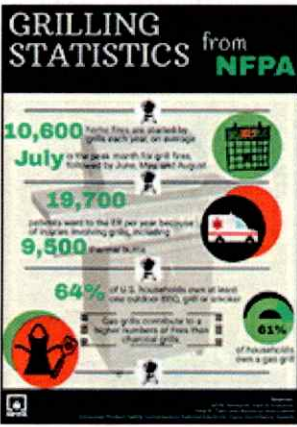
Grilling safety tips

A grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries.

Download the safety tip sheet.



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Use our grilling infographic

NFPA has created a grilling infographic for you to use on your website, blogs, Facebook and Twitter. Just download the graphic, and place wherever you want to use it. Please link to www.nfpa.org/grilling.

Download the infographic.

Learn Some Grilling Safety Tips from NFPA



This grilling season, NFPA tests your knowledge and demonstrates the proper way to use your grill safely to prevent fires.

Checking Your Gas Grill for Leaks



Guy Colonna, NFPA Division Manager, Industrial & Chemical Engineering, gives some basic tips on how to prepare your grill before your first cookout of the season.

Grilling fire facts

- July (16%) was the peak month for grill fires, followed by June (14%), May (12%) and August (11%).
- In 2017-2021, an average of 22,155 patients per year went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills.*** Nearly half (10,342 or 47%) of the injuries were thermal burns, including both burns from fire and from contact with hot objects; 6,074 thermal burns, per year, were caused by such contact or other non-fire events.
- Children under five accounted for an average 2,820 or 46%, of the contact-type burns, per year. These burns typically occurred when someone, often a child, bumped into, touched or fell on the grill, grill part or hot coals. Keep children away from the grill.
- Gas grills were involved in an average of 9,079 home fires per year, including 4,454 structure fires and 4,625 outdoor fires annually. Leaks or breaks were primarily a problem with gas grills. 9% of gas grill structure fires and 15% of outside gas grill fires were caused by such contact or other non-fire events.
- Other solid fuel grills were involved in 1,440 home fires per year, including 754 structure fires and 686 outside fires annually.

I Agree

Source: NFPA's Applied Research

*Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association (HPBA)

**Homes include one- or two-family homes, apartments, town houses, row houses, and manufactured housing.

***Data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System

More grilling information

- NFPA news release: Summer season: peak time for grilling fires
- Check out our sample [social media posts and cards](#) on grilling safety.
- See "[Home Grill Fires Tables](#)" report for more details about home grill fires.
- Plan on taking your grill with you on a camping trip or picnic? [Check out our tips](#) that feature fire safe information on charcoal grills, barbecues and hibatchis.

Bring Sparky home!



Sparky the Fire Dog Stuffy

This stuffed animal toy celebrates the world's most famous fire dog - Sparky the Fire Dog®!

More Info

In This Section

- > **Grilling social media posts** Use our sample posts on your social media sites to encourage everyone to grill safely.
- > **Outdoor cooking with portable grills** Follow some simple safety tips and guidelines when using portable grills

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GOALS

This safety session teaches employees to:

- Identify tornado hazards and warning signs.
- Take effective action to stay safe when a tornado strikes.

Applicable Regulations: 29 CFR 1910.38



1. What are tornadoes, and why are they so dangerous?

- Tornadoes start as strong thunderstorms and end as nature's most violent, damaging storms.
- Tornadoes appear as the familiar funnel-shaped black cloud with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour.
- Damage in the tornado's wake can extend to over 1 mile wide and 50 miles long.
- There is some tornado risk during the year in every state.
- Tornadoes often develop rapidly so that little advance warning is possible in some cases.
- Tornado "watches" are declared when the potential for a tornado exists, and tornado "warnings" are declared when a tornado has been spotted in your area.

2. What are the warning signs of an approaching tornado?

- Be alert to changing weather conditions, and look for approaching storms.
- When weather conditions appear threatening, check radio or television for tornado alerts.
- Look for the following danger signs: dark, often greenish sky; large hail; a large, dark, low-lying cloud, particularly if rotating; and a loud roar, similar to a moving freight train.
- If you see approaching storms or danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

3. What can you do to prepare before a tornado strikes?

- In a tornado warning, seek shelter immediately in a building or other solid structure.
— Most injuries associated with high winds are from flying debris.
- Stay inside, close windows, and go to a designated shelter area such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level.
- If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (for example, a closet or hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls.
- Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- In a high-rise building, go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
- If you are in a mobile home, get out immediately and go to a sturdy, nearby building.

4. What should you do if you are caught outside?

- Being in a vehicle during a tornado is not safe. If possible, drive to the nearest sturdy shelter.



- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a vehicle. Instead, leave the vehicle, and seek safe shelter.
- If you cannot make it to a safe shelter, pull over and park, put your seat belt on, put your head below the windows, and cover your head with your hands and a blanket, coat, or a cushion, if possible.
- If you can safely get lower than the level of the roadway (like a ditch or ravine), leave your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.

5. What should you do if you are caught outside?

- Being outside during a tornado is very dangerous. The safest course of action is always to seek a sturdy shelter. Sheds and other outbuildings are not safe.
- If you cannot make it to a safe shelter, lie flat and facedown on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms.
- Get as far away from trees and cars as you can, and watch out for flying debris.
- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.

6. What steps should you take to protect against hazards after a tornado?

- Check for injuries, but do not attempt to move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger of further injury.
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots, long sleeves, and gloves when handling or walking on or near debris, and be aware of hazards from exposed nails and broken glass.
- If you suspect any damage to your home, shut off electrical power, natural gas, and propane to avoid electrocution, fire, or explosions.
- Do not touch downed power lines or objects in contact with downed lines.
- Report electrical hazards or gas leaks to the police and the utility company.
- Never use generators, pressure washers, grills, camp stoves, or other gasoline-, propane-, natural gas-, or charcoal-burning devices inside your home or garage.
- Be careful when cleaning up debris, watch for hazards, and wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), just as you would against job hazards.



DISCUSSION POINTS:

Review workplace emergency procedures to be followed in the event of a tornado during working hours. Recommend that employees develop family tornado plans, designate safe shelters within their homes, and conduct drills with the whole family.



CONCLUSION:

- Tornadoes are deadly—don't take chances!
- Tornadoes can occur with little or no warning and can be deadly. Knowing how to respond at a moment's notice can help you and your family stay safe if a tornado occurs in your area.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

Have your employees take the Tornado Safety quiz. By testing their knowledge, you can judge their ability to recognize tornado risks and emergency actions and whether they need to re-view this important topic again soon.



How to use a fire extinguisher

Most fire extinguishers operate using the following P.A.S.S. Technique:

P.



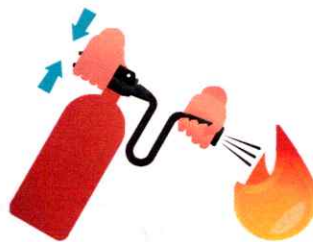
1. PULL the pin.
This will also break the tamper seal.

A.



2. AIM low, pointing the extinguisher nozzle (or its horn or hose) at the base of the fire.
NOTE: Do not touch the plastic discharge horn on CO2 extinguishers, it gets very cold and may damage skin.

S.



3. SQUEEZE the handle to release the extinguishing agent.

S.



4. SWEEP from side to side at the base of the fire until it appears to be out. Watch the area. If the fire re-ignites, repeat steps 2 - 4.

If you have the slightest doubt about your ability to fight a fire.... **EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!**

March 11, 2011

There's No Place Like Home—Especially in a Weather Emergency!

Emergency preparedness is critical in the workplace and may be one of the first things you cover when training new employees. But it's also a good idea to give workers practical safety information for home weather emergencies, too. Being prepared for weather emergencies can make a big difference in the impact such an event makes on workers, their families, and their property.

Begin with a refresher on your company's procedures in weather emergencies. Make sure workers know:

- *How they can find out if the company will be closed*
- *How they are to notify the company if they are unable to get to work*
- *Their status—or not—as an essential worker who must remain on duty during a weather emergency*

Why It Matters...

- **According to the National Weather Service, in one recent year, there were 366 fatalities caused by weather events.**
- **There were 1,827 injuries.**
- **Property damage costs were more than \$6.6 million.**

Just as you have a written emergency plan in the workplace, advise workers to create such a plan for their household. A personal emergency plan should consider several common problems workers may face in any type of weather emergency. For example, workers should:

- *Prepare to lose electricity—that is very likely to happen in many emergencies, and the loss may last for hours or even for days.*
- *That means there will be no refrigeration and probably no ability to cook, so have emergency food that doesn't require heating plus adequate drinking water for a few days.*
- *Have a portable radio and emergency lighting charged and ready.*

Advise workers to pay attention to weather reports of impending emergencies. In case of a possible hurricane, blizzard, or flood, they will usually have sufficient time to prepare their home for the coming storm. They know best what type of damage is most likely, depending on the predictions they hear about an impending storm, and they should do whatever is necessary to protect it before the storm hits.

Even with the best preparation, some emergencies may still require evacuation. Advise workers to take the following steps to prepare:

- *Make sure the car has plenty of fuel.*
- *Evacuate if you are ordered to do so—lives are more important than property.*
- *Have an emergency supply kit in the car at all times.*

- *Be aware of roads in the area that are most likely to be unusable in case of flooding or heavy snow, and try to find safer routes.*
- *Never try to cross flooded roadways.*
- *Prepare an advance list of important things to take with you:*
 - *Sufficient indoor and outdoor clothing for a few days; and/or*
 - *Prescription medicines and important papers, such as insurance policies.*

Finally, recommend that workers discuss their emergency planning with their families. They may get separated, so everyone needs to know what to do—and how to communicate with other family members.

- *Keep cell phones ready for communicating with family members who get separated.*
- *Make sure everyone has access to emergency phone numbers.*
- *Arrange for a designated location to meet if you can't return to your home.*

Reassure your workers that most weather emergencies are not life threatening if the workers are adequately prepared. Having a plan in place before it becomes necessary offers the best protection.