



Louisiana State Fire Marshal



Fire Watch Training Program Temporary Emergency Evacuation Shelters for Nursing Homes

ESF-8



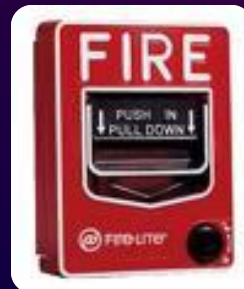
SAFETY IS #1



What is a Fire Watch?



Fire Watches are dedicated personnel trusted with the responsibility to prevent and/or react to emergency situations in event of a fire. Their sole duties are to observe for emergency situations and to prevent unsafe acts.



Duties

- Be familiar with the facility and the emergency exits.
- Know the location of all handicapped personnel in your area of responsibility.
- Know the primary and secondary evacuation routes.
- Know the location of any hazardous materials or situations in your area.
- Know the location of pull stations and how to activate alarms and notify proper emergency personnel.
- Know how the alarm system responds.
- Know how to use the fire extinguisher equipment, where it is located & ensure it is operational prior to the event.

Responsibilities

- Check & Ensure that all exits are clear & unobstructed.
- Remove any hazardous materials if possible.
- Activate the alarm systems as needed.
- Use fire extinguishers if applicable .
- Ensure accountability of all staff & patients.
- Keep documentation of fire watch rounds should be kept on-site available for inspectors.
- Call 911 to notify emergency response personnel.



Fire Facts

The United States has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world.

Between 1994 and 1998, an average of 4,400 Americans lost their lives and 25,100 were injured annually.

100 firefighters are killed annually.

2 million fires reported each year.

Many others go unreported.

Direct property loss is estimated to be \$8.6 billion annually.

Each year fires kill more Americans than all natural disasters combined.



Common Causes of Fire

Electricity
Housekeeping
Cleaning Supplies
Flammable Liquids
Machinery
Careless smoking

Improper Storage
Space Heaters
Construction
Combustible Liquids
Unattended Cooking
Children

Prevention is the best way to
fight a fire!





In Case of Fire

- ✦ Immediately evacuate the building
- ✦ Call the fire department from outside the building.
- ✦ Do not fight the fire unless it is small (*waste basket size*).
- ✦ Make sure you have a clear un-obstructed way out.



If You Discover A Fire

- ✦ Leave the fire area and close the door to the area.
- ✦ Sound the fire alarm.
- ✦ Immediately evacuate the building via the shortest and safest route. .
- ✦ Do not use elevators. A fire can disrupt the operation of elevators and trap occupants inside.
- ✦ If you notice smoke, use the alternate escape route.
- ✦ Test doors with the back of your hand before opening them. If the door is warm or if you notice smoke, use an alternative escape route. Check paths for safety before proceeding and close doors behind you.
- ✦ Crawl low if you have to go through smoke.
- ✦ Go to a safe area or to a pre-assigned exterior area for your building.
- ✦ From the nearest phone in a safe area, call 911.
- ✦ Await emergency response personnel at safe location and direct them to the scene.
- ✦ If you suspect that someone is missing or trapped, contact the emergency personnel outside the building.
- ✦ Wait at a safe window and signal/call for help.
- ✦ Stop, Drop and Roll if your clothing catches fire.

If You Hear a Fire Alarm

- ✦ Immediately evacuate the building via the shortest and safest route.
- ✦ Do not use elevators.
- ✦ If you notice smoke, use the alternative escape route.
- ✦ Test doors with the back of your hand before opening them. If the door is warm or if you notice smoke, use an alternative escape route.
- ✦ Check paths for safety before proceeding and close doors behind you.
- ✦ Crawl low if you have to go through smoke.
- ✦ Go to a safe area or to a pre-assigned exterior area for your building.
- ✦ If you suspect that someone is missing or trapped, contact the emergency personnel outside the building.
- ✦ If you are trapped during a fire emergency, close all doors between you and the fire. Stuff cracks around the doors to keep out smoke.
- ✦ Wait at a safe window and signal/call for help. If there is a phone in the room, call the fire department or **9-1-1** and tell them exactly where you are.
- ✦ Stop, Drop and Roll if your clothing catches fire.

Smoke

- Most people killed in fires actually die from inhalation of smoke and/or toxic fumes long before the fire reaches them.
- Modern fabrics and materials are composites with hazardous fumes when ignited.
- A small trash can fire can become a room engulfing inferno within 3 minutes.
- Most smoke alarms do not activate until between 1.5 and 3 minutes after a fire starts.



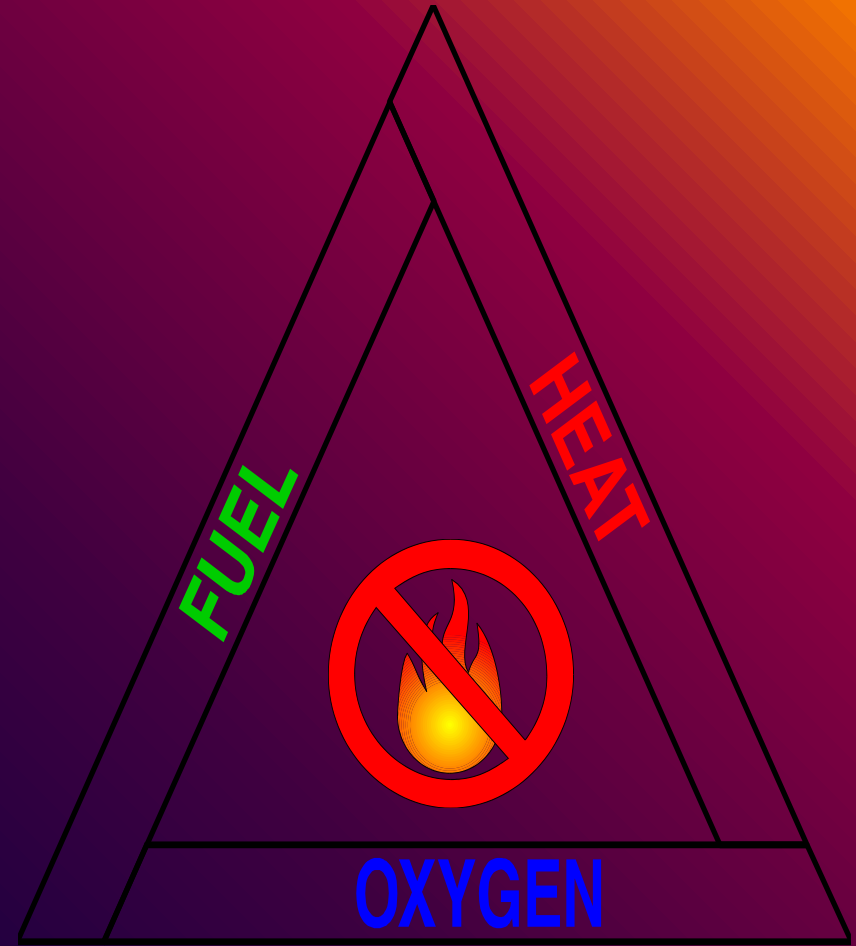
Get low & get out!

Extinguishment Theory

- **Removing Heat**
- **Removing Fuel**
- **Reducing Oxygen**

WILL

- **Inhibit Chemical Chain Reaction**



Fire Extinguishers

When faced with a fire, you must make some split second decisions:

Do I want to put out this fire?

How do you operate this thing, anyway?

Do I need help?



Fire Extinguishers

Time is critical in any first-aid fire situation....

The employee must be able to make split-second decisions with confidence.



Are the capabilities of this extinguisher sufficient for the size of the fire?

Does the fuel source make the fire too hazardous for this extinguisher?

Is the extinguisher the proper type for this type of fire?

Is there a safe way to turn off or remove the fuel source?



The importance of portable fire extinguishers?



Your first line of defense!
Keeps small fires from growing
into BIG fires!

Fire Extinguishers

When seconds count.....

Even a willing operator cannot successfully extinguish a fire unless they know how to actuate the available equipment.



Things to know:

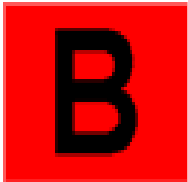
- How many extinguishers are in your building
- Where is your nearest extinguisher
- What type is it
- What can and cannot it be used on
- When was it last serviced and checked



Fire Extinguisher Types



Common materials such as paper, wood or most other combustibles



Flammable liquids such as gasoline, paint remover or grease



Electrical fires



Combustible metals usually found in industry



Mg

Magnesium

Characteristics



Water extinguisher 30-40 ft. 60 sec.



Dry chemical 5-20 ft. 8-25 sec.



CO2 extinguisher 3-8 ft. 8-30 sec.

"Quick-Check"

Is It Ready To Use ?



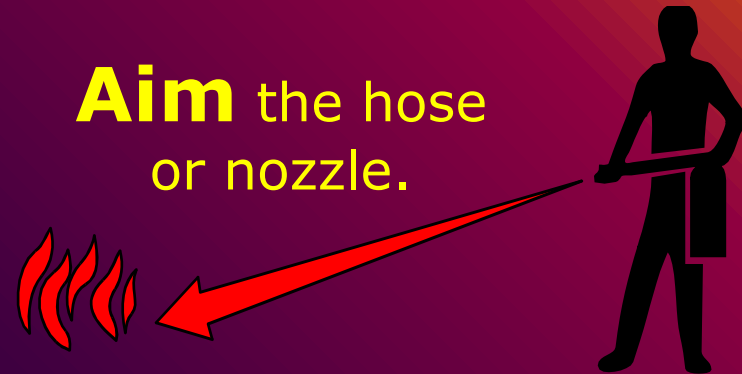
1. Check the gauge. The pressure indicator should be in the green zone. (CO2 extinguishers do not have pressure gauges.)
2. The extinguisher should have a current inspection tag.
3. The pin and handle should be secured with a plastic tab seal.
4. The extinguisher and hose should be free of any visible damage.



The P.A.S.S. Method



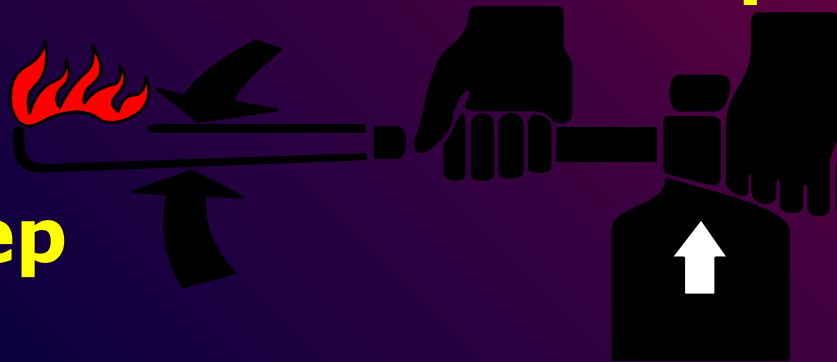
Pull the pin.



Aim the hose
or nozzle.

Squeeze the lever.

Sweep
the
agent.



Fire Extinguishers

Remember.....



The average hand portable extinguisher will only operate for 30 seconds -----
There is NO TIME to learn during an actual emergency.



Fire Extinguishers

IN CASE OF FIRE

- ✦ Make sure the fire extinguisher is rated for the type of fire and that you know how to use the extinguisher.
- ✦ Start as far away from the fire as possible
- ✦ Always back away from the fire even if it appears to be out.



Fire Extinguishers

Fight the fire only if:

It is small. (*Waste basket size or smaller*)

It is contained to one area.

You know how to use the fire fighting equipment.

The extinguisher is capable of containing the fire.

You can extinguish the fire or remove the fuel source.

No one else is in danger.

Evacuation

Evacuation is always the best option!

- If there is any doubt about completely putting out the fire, not controlling it, get out!
- Ensure all personnel in your area of responsibility are out. Have an accountability list of staff & patients in your shelter at all times.
- Keep stairwells open and keep people moving to a safe location.



Once You Have Evacuated

- ✦ From the nearest phone in the safe area, call 9-1-1.
- ✦ If you suspect that someone is missing or trapped, contact firefighters on scene or at the fire engine, police officers, or ambulance personnel.
- ✦ Await emergency response personnel at a safe location and direct them to the scene.
- ✦ Report the fire to the hall office or the nearest available resident advisor.
- ✦ Do not re-enter the building until instructed to do so by the fire department.
- ✦ Follow directions of fire and police personnel and the housing staff.
- ✦ Report to the person who is taking roll.
- ✦ Never re-enter the building to save your personal belongings.
- ✦ Stay calm.

Disabled Employees or Visitors

- Move disabled personnel who cannot reasonably evacuate the building/floor to an area of refuge.
- An area of refuge is a location away from the fire, behind doors and with expectations of safety until rescue is effected by trained 1st responders.
- Notify fire fighting personnel immediately arrival of exact location of all disabled persons.





Doors and Exits

- Doors, even non fire rated doors, slow the movement of fire and are especially helpful in slowing toxic smoke fumes.
- Ensure all doors are closed as personnel exit the room or area.
- Close hallway doors if you know all personnel have evacuated the immediate area.
- Close stairwell doors to prevent smoke from traveling upward.



Once Evacuation is Complete

- Once evacuation is complete, ensure personnel do not re-enter the building.
- Account for all personnel in your area through coordination with the supervisors or organizers.
- Notify the fire department of any missing personnel and/or exact location of disabled persons.
- Do Not Renter Building until told it is safe to do so by the Local Fire Department!

ACCOUNT FOR EVERYONE!





Summary



When a fire occurs:

- Stay Calm!
- Get out! - ensure all staff & patients get out safely or move to an area of refuge.
- Call 911 from outside -give location and name.
- Stay Out! Do not re-enter until told it is safe to do so by Fire Department personnel.



Fire Watch Personnel

Minimum Required Equipment:

- Flashlight
- Megaphone or PA Device
- Emergency whistle
- Cell phone and/or radio
- Watch or clock
- Keys to all exits, doors, etc...
- Network with local fire officials & state fire marshal prior to & during an event!
- 24/7/365 contact numbers for facility owner/operators.





Louisiana State Fire Marshal

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Together we can make a difference!