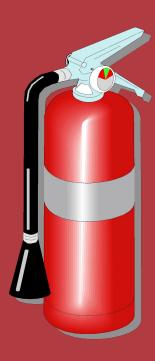


# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FIRE • RESCUE • EMS

# Multi-Family Residential Fire Safety & Fire Extinguisher Use & Safety





## **Objectives**

- Be prepared
- Stay calm
- Know two ways out
- Have an evacuation plan
- Wait outside for the fire department



- If you can't get out / shelter in place
- Maintain working smoke alarms
- Don't leave cooking unattended
- Don't overload electrical outlets
- Participate in Fall Prevention Classes

## Be Prepared

- Create an escape plan. Discuss with everyone in your home about how you will respond during a fire.
   Practice your plan at least twice a year.
- Count the number of doors there are between your dwelling and the nearest fire exit door. Memorize the number in case you have to find the exit in the dark.
- Know where all the exit doors and stairs are on your floor.
- Never use elevators during a fire or emergency.
- Learn your building evacuation plan if you have one.

## Stay Calm

- If your door feels warm to the touch, do not attempt to open it. Call 911 and tell the dispatcher your apartment number and that you can't open your door.
- Stuff the cracks around the door with towels, rags or bedding. Cover vents.
- Wait at a window and signal for help with a flashlight or by waving a white or bright cloth.
- If your apartment door is cool to the touch, open it slowly.
   Stay low and check for smoke or fire in the hallway. If safe to do so, exit the building quickly.
- If you have mobility issues, shelter in place, call 911, give your location and stay near a window.

## **Building Fire Safety**

- Don't prop open exit or stairway doors. These doors are installed to slow the spread of heat and smoke if there is a fire.
- Speak to your building manager if you see a damaged smoke alarm, fire extinguisher or an emergency light that has burned out.
- Make sure your home has working smoke alarms.
  - Smoke alarms should be in each sleeping room
  - Test smoke/CO detectors every month
  - Replace batteries every year / Replace alarms every 10 years
  - If you're a renter and you think there is a problem with any of your smoke detectors, tell your landlord

## **Carbon Monoxide**

 Carbon monoxide (CO), is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels burn inefficiently



- CO can result from faulty furnaces or other gas appliances, portable generators, water heaters, clothes dryers, or cars left runnning
- Have fuel-burning appliances, furnaces, venting and chimney checked annually by a professional

## Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- Symptoms include headache, nausea, and drowsiness
- Extremely high levels of poisoning can be fatal, causing death within minutes
- Carbon monoxide poisoning usually occurs in winter months, when heat sources may produce hazardous carbon monoxide levels

## Wait outside for the fire department

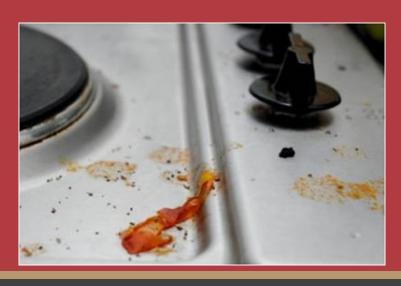
- Once you are outside, move away from the building.
   Give firefighters and fire trucks plenty of space.
- Stay outside. Do not go back inside for any reason.
- If you think someone is still inside, tell firefighters where you think they are.
- Go to your outside meeting place and stay there.
- Wait until firefighters tell you it's safe to go back inside.

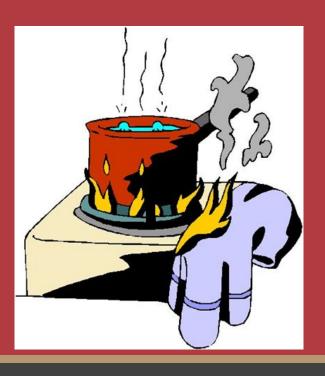
# **Apartment Evacuation**



# Cooking Safety

- Keep area clean and clutter free
- Keep cooking surfaces and surrounding areas free from combustible materials
- Clean any grease build-up





## **Stand By Your Pan**

- Use a timer to remind you that you're cooking
- Pay attention to your cooking, never leave cooking unattended
- If you leave the kitchen for even a short time, turn off the stove
- Remain in your home if you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, and check it regularly

## **Burn Prevention**

- Keep pot handles turned inward
- Use pot holder and oven mitts
- Never lean over a hot burner
- Wear short sleeves or roll up loose-fitting sleeves



## **Space Heater Safety**

- Nationwide, portable space heaters are the top cause of fire deaths from home heating equipment
- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn
- Choose space heaters that turn off automatically if they tip over

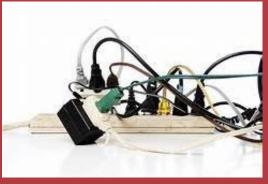


 Turn off space heaters before you go to bed

## **Preventing Electrical Fires**



- Do not overload outlets.
- Insert plugs fully into sockets.



- Do not overload power strips
- Replace worn, old or damaged extension cords right away
- Avoid putting cords where they can be damaged or pinched, like under a carpet or rug



- Always plug major appliances directly into a wall outlet.
- Never use an extension cord with a major appliance
- If the appliance has a cracked, damaged or loose cord, replace the appliance

## **Candle Safety**

- Put candles in sturdy metal, glass, or ceramic holders
- Place candles where they cannot tip over
- Neve leave a lit candle unattended
- Blow out candles after use and before going to bed



# **Smoking Materials**

- Never smoke in bed, while drowsy or under the influence of medication or alcohol
- Use large, deep ashtrays
- Let matches and ashes cool completely before disposing of them



## **Oxygen Safety**

- If you're using home oxygen, you should not smoke - and family and friends should not smoke around you
- Using home oxygen increases the risk of fires and burns
- Keep home oxygen tubing at least 10 feet away from heat sources



## Shelter in place - How?

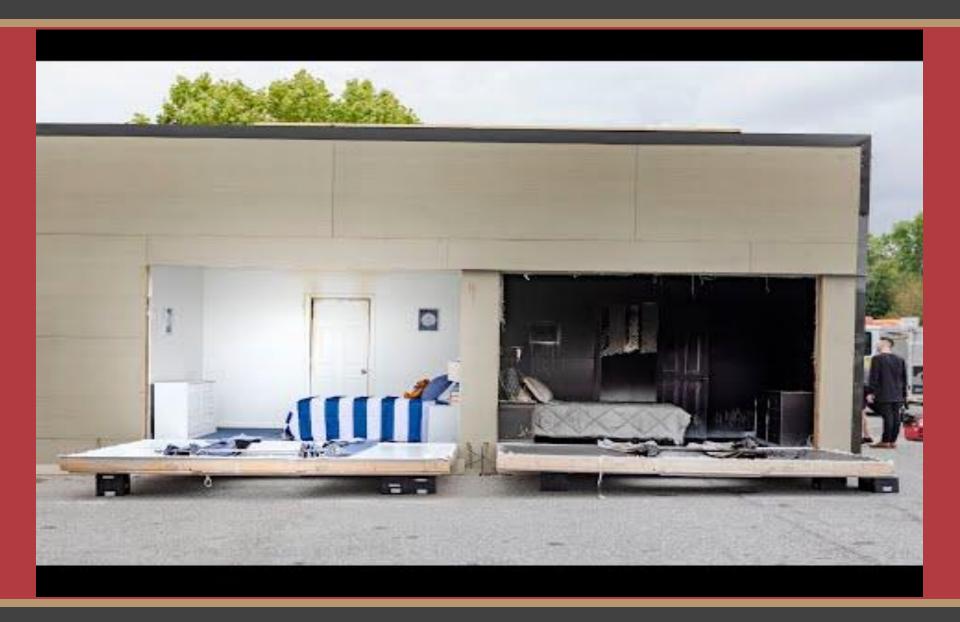
#### Before you go to sleep:

- Close before you doze. Close your bedroom door while sleeping.
- Place slippers or shoes next to your bedside
- Have a flashlight readily available
- Keep your phone next to you, to call for help
- Make sure to keep any hearing devices or eye glasses within reach

#### If you wake up to a fire:

- Before opening a door, check the door with the back of your hand. If it is hot, do not open the door. Stay put and call 911.
- Do not try to fight the fire yourself.
- If smoke is present, stay low to the floor as possible and cover your mouth, head outside quickly as possible, closing doors behind you.
- If you are trapped, close all the doors between you and the fire and call 911.
   Tell the dispatcher where you are located.
- If you live in a multi unit housing development, use the stairways to exit the building. DO NOT USE THE ELEVATOR!

# Close Before You Doze!

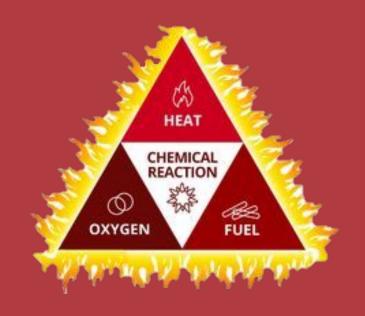


## Fire Extinguisher Use & Safety

- Three Components of fire
  - Heat
  - Oxygen
  - Fuel

 Need all three components for chemical reaction

 Fire extinguishers interrupt one or more of the components





### **Fire Classifications**



- wood
- paper
- cloth





- gasoline
- oil
- grease
- other solvents

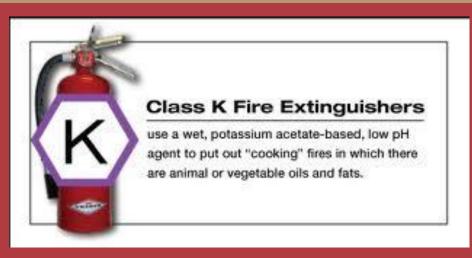


- computers
- fax machine
- other energized electrical equip



- magnesium
- sodium
- potassium
- titanium
- other flammable metals

## Fire Classifications (cont.)





Utilized mostly in restaurants or in large cooking facilities.

Fires involving combustible oils, lards and fats in commercial cooking.

Notated by Hexagon symbol

## Sample of Extinguisher Anatomy



Water charged extinguisher

#### Dry/Wet or Chemical extinguisher



## When To Use a Fire Extinguisher

#### Fire extinguishers can be helpful on a small fire.

- Has someone called 911 and alerted the fire department?
- Have I alerted others in the building that there's a fire?
- Is the fire small and contained in a single object, like a pan or a wastebasket?
- Am I physically able to use a fire extinguisher?
- Am I safe from the fire's toxic smoke?
- Do I have a clear escape route?



If you're unsure about whether or not it's safe to use a fire extinguisher, and for all other situations, call 911, alert others, and leave the building.

Use a fire extinguisher when you can answer "Yes" to all of these questions.

## Pull - Aim - Squeeze - Sweep



## Am I capable of using a fire extinguisher?

- -Some people may have fear of fire that they cannot overcome
- -Some people have physical limitations that might diminish or eliminate their ability to properly use a fire extinguisher.
- -People with lifting limitations, older adults, or children may find that an extinguisher is too heavy to handle or too difficult to operate.



## See Something = Say Something

- Be sure nothing is blocking a fire extinguisher and that there aren't items stacked or stored near the extinguisher that would hinder use.
- Many extinguishers have gauges that show when pressure is too high or too low. If the yellow pressure arrow is in the red, inform the proper department asap.
- Look over the working parts at least once a month to make sure the can, hoses and nozzles are not damaged, dented or crushed. If you see damage inform the proper department.







# Frequently Asked Questions

- Q How often should I replace my disposable extinguisher?
- A Every 10 years. Although extinguishers do not have a "true" expiration date, disposable non-rechargeable should be replaced every 10 years, just like smoke alarms and CO2 detectors.
- Q What temperature should I store my fire extinguisher?
- A Extinguishers can be stored at 40 degrees to 120 degrees (F).
- Q How do I tell the difference between a disposable extinguisher and a rechargeable extinguisher?
- A You can check which kind you have by checking the gauge. Rechargeable ones will read either "charge" or in the green "overcharge" or "recharge." Disposable ones will read either "full" or "empty."
- **Q** What is the powder inside the extinguisher?
- A "ABC" extinguishers are filled with a fine yellow powder. The greatest portion of this powder is composed of MONOAMMONIUM PHOSPHATE.

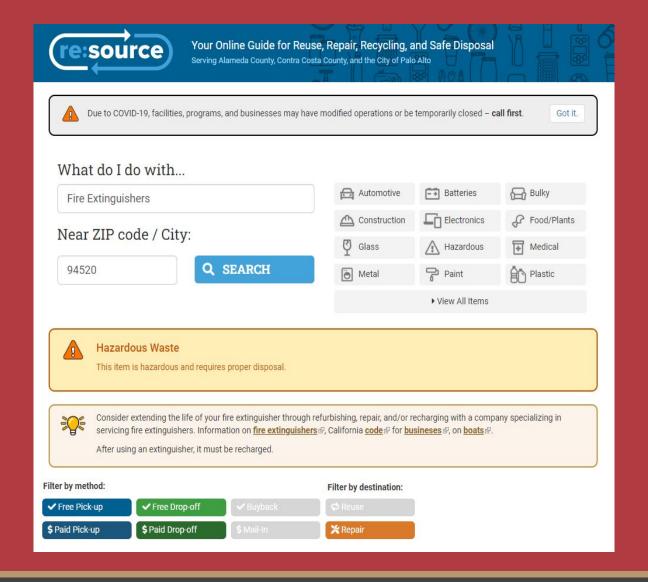
Nitrogen is used to pressurize the extinguishers.



# Frequently Asked Questions

- **Q** Can I store an extinguisher horizontally?
- A A modern fire extinguisher can be stored horizontally. The contents are under pressure, and the angle of the storage will not cause the system to leak. Proper fire extinguisher storage includes using the appropriate mounting brackets. It's also important to mount the extinguisher in a location where it is readily available.
- **Q** What is the most common type of extinguisher?
- A An ABC extinguisher is the most popular and most commonly used fire extinguisher. An ABC fire extinguisher extinguishes class A, B and C fires. It is composed of Monoammonium phosphate.
- **Q** Is the stuff inside an extinguisher toxic?
- A The dry powder in ABC fire extinguishers is non-toxic but can cause skin irritation. You can check the manufacturer's website or the information on the extinguisher itself. The chemicals vary by model and manufacturer but if they sprayed toxic chemicals they'd never be licensed for home use.
- Q How do I clean up after using my dry powder extinguisher?
- A Vacuum up as much of the powder as possible, then use a damp cloth with some soap to clean/mop up the rest of the powder residue.

## Recycle – Repair - Disposal



https://www.https://resource.stopwaste.org/

# Recycle - Repair - Disposal

Vendor	Distance	Pick Up	Drop Off	Reuse & Repair	Mail In
Central Contra Costa HHW Collection Facility 4797 Imhoff Pl., Martinez • (800) 646-1431	3.53 mi		~		
Delta HHW Collection Facility 2550 Pittsburg-Antioch Hwy, Antioch • (925) 756-1990	10.16 mi		\$		
Freon Free 1881 Walters Ct Suite A, Fairfield • (707) 429-9013	16.31 mi	\$	\$		
Best Equipment Company: Fire Extinguisher Sales & Service 3101 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley • (510) 655- 8882	19.01 mi		\$	*	
West County HHW Collection Facility 101 Pittsburg Ave., Richmond • (888) 412- 9277	19.20 mi		\$		
Acme Fire Extinguisher 1305 Fruitvale Ave b/t 13th St & 14th St, Oakland • (510) 532- 4040	20.88 mi		\$	*	
Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Program (Oakland Facility) 2100 East 7th Street, Oakland • (800) 606- 6606	21.28 mi		~		
Pleasanton Transfer Station 3110 Busch Rd., Pleasanton • (925) 846- 2042	26.57 mi		\$		
Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Program (Hayward Facility) 2091 West Winton Avenue, Hayward • (800) 606-6606	26.99 mi		~		



## Questions

