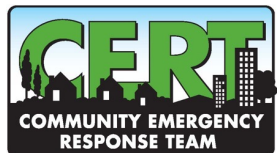


# CERT Basic Training

## Unit 6: Fire Safety and Utility Controls




**FEMA**



0 seconds

NIST

A close-up photograph of a lit candle in a holder. The candle is lit, with a bright yellow flame and a trail of white smoke rising from it. The candle is positioned in the center-right of the frame. To the left of the candle, there is a dark, textured object, possibly a piece of fabric or a shadow. In the bottom left corner, there is a digital timer displaying "00:30" in white text with a black outline. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

00:30

# *Home Fire Safety*



Before the fire:

- Smoke alarms
- Fire extinguishers
- Home fire escape plan
- Minimize fire sources



# Home Fire Safety



During a major fire:

- **CALL 9-1-1**
- Crawl along the floor
- Feel doors and doorknobs before opening
- Close doors behind you
- If you're trapped, close doors and seal them
- If your clothes catch fire, **STOP, DROP, and ROLL**

# Role of CERTs



- CERTs play very important role in fire safety by:
  - Extinguishing small fires
  - Preventing additional fires by removing fuel sources
  - Shutting off utilities
  - Assisting with evacuations, when necessary

# *CERT Priorities*



- Rescuer safety is number one priority
  - Always work with a buddy
  - Always wear safety equipment

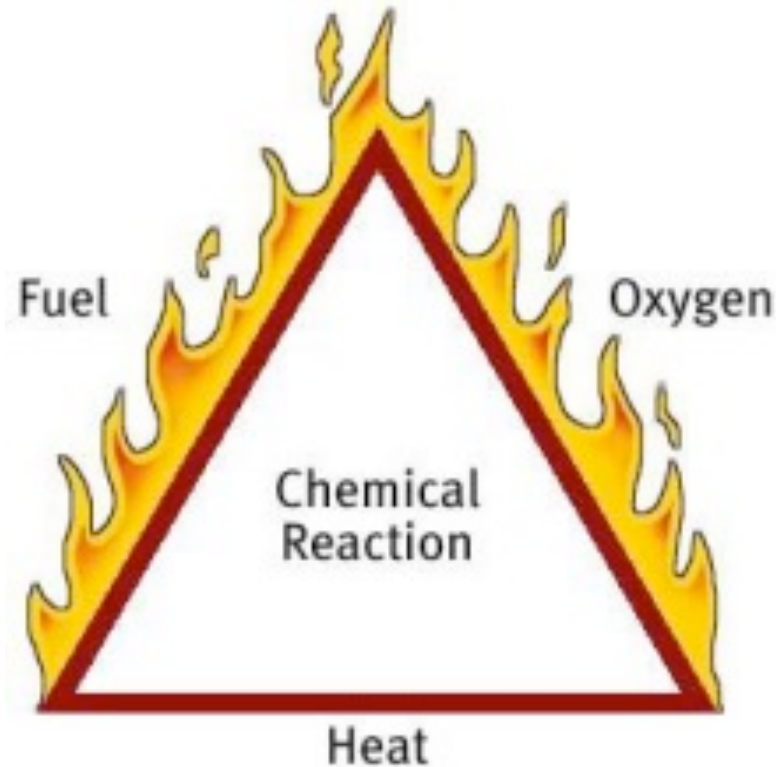
## **CERT Goal:**

**Do the greatest good for the greatest number**



PM 6-1

# The Fire Triangle



PM 6-3



# *Classes of Fire*



- Class A: Ordinary combustibles
- Class B: Flammable and combustible liquids
- Class C: Energized electrical equipment
- Class D: Combustible metals
- Class K: Cooking oils

# Home Fires



- Cooking
- Heating (space heaters, fireplaces)
- Electrical (incorrect wiring, overloaded circuits)
- Intentional
- Smoking



# *CERT Fire Size-up*



- Helps CERT volunteers decide:
  - Whether to attempt to suppress a fire
  - A plan of action
- Answers these questions:
  - Do my buddy and I have the right equipment?
  - Are there other hazards?
  - Is the building structurally damaged?
  - Can my buddy and I escape?
  - Can my buddy and I fight the fire safely?

**Remember: The safety of individual CERT volunteers is always the top priority**

PM 6-4



# Firefighting Resources



- Local fire department
- Fire alarm system
- Sprinkler systems
- Portable fire extinguishers
- Interior wet standpipes



PM 6-7

# Fire Extinguishers



- Water
- Dry chemical
- Carbon dioxide
- Specialized



PM 6-7

# *Fire Extinguishers*



$$pV = nRT$$

Pressure

Volume

Temperature

“Ideal Gas Law”

# Extinguisher Rating/Labeling



- Labels show types of fires for which that extinguisher is used
  - Class A fire ratings: 1A to 40A
  - Class B fire ratings: 1B to 640B
- Higher number on label = greater amount of extinguishing agent

# Sample Label



PM 6-8



# *Fire Extinguishers*



Before you use a fire extinguisher, ask yourself:

- Do you have a buddy?
- Do you have two exit routes?
- Are you clear of other dangers?  
(Smoke, hazmat, falling debris, etc.)
- Is this the right type and size of extinguisher?
- Are you confident of how to use it?



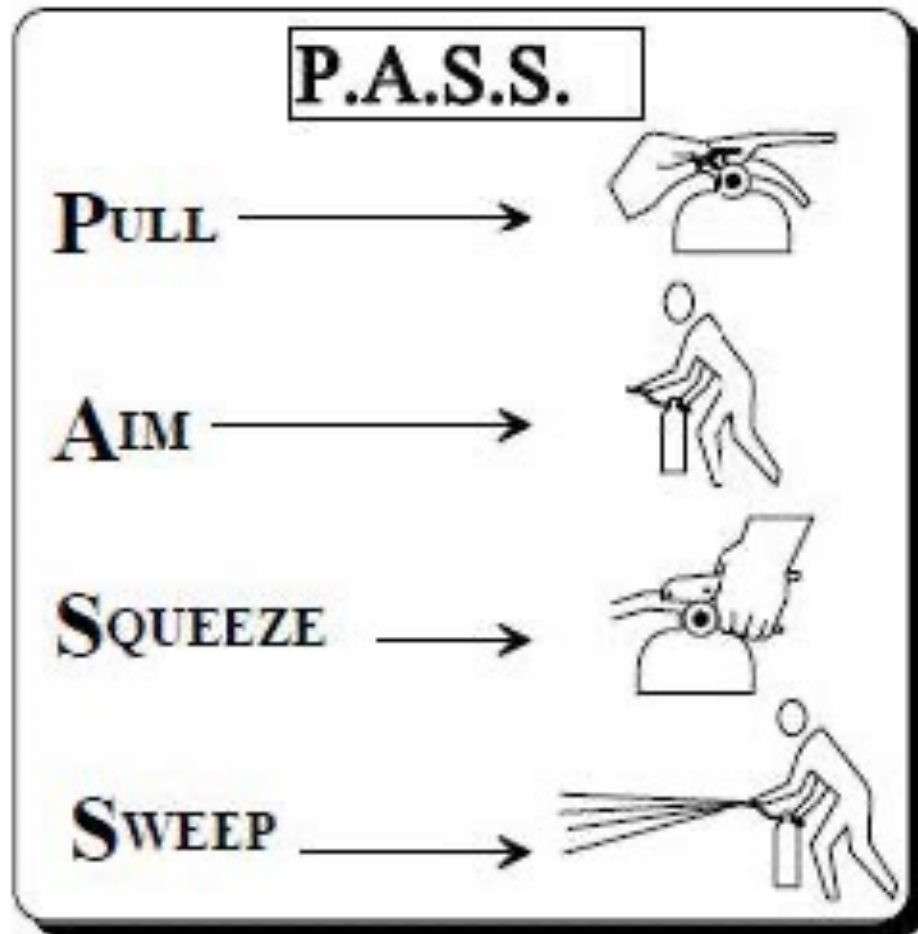
# *Fire Extinguishers*



If any answer is “no:”

1. Leave immediately
2. Activate the fire alarm if it's safe
3. Close the doors behind you
4. Report the fire to authorities

# P.A.S.S.



PM 6-11

# *Fire Extinguishers*



If the fire isn't out within 10–15 seconds:

1. Leave immediately
2. Activate the fire alarm if it's safe
3. Close the doors behind you
4. Report the fire to authorities

If the fire is out:

1. Overhaul: cool, soak, and separate
2. Report the fire to authorities



# *Interior Wet Standpipes*



- Usually found in commercial buildings or apartments
- CERT volunteers should not operate



PM 6-11

# *Fire Suppression Safety*



**Safety of individual CERT members is top priority**



PM 6-12



# Fire Suppression Dont's



- Don't get too close
- Don't try to fight a fire alone
- Don't try to suppress large fires
- Don't enter smoke-filled areas
- Don't let the fire get between you and the exit



PM 6-12