



# FAMILY STEPS TO SURVIVAL

## Learn Not to Burn



### WHY?

#### Fires can put you and your home at risk!

Fires claim the lives of thousands each year. Strong temblors can trigger fires by:

- Breaking gas lines
- Downing electrical lines
- Damaging wiring in appliances
- Toppling shelves holding combustible chemicals

Disaster-related fires also are caused by:

- Leaving food unattended on the stove after an earthquake strikes
- Lighting or using matches before checking for gas leaks
- Using fireplaces before they've been inspected for damage

Having a good fire extinguisher and knowing how to properly use it before a fire occurs can help save your home and your life.

The reverse side of this Focus Sheet includes information on how to operate a fire extinguisher and where to install smoke detectors.

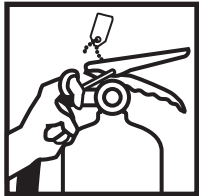
*These are only suggestions for preparing your family. Use discretion and common sense in your preparations.*

## Fire Extinguishers

Equip your home with dependable fire extinguishers and teach family members how to use them. Proper use of fire extinguishers can keep a small fire from growing, provide you with an escape route through a small fire and help you fight a small fire until professional firefighters arrive.

### How to Operate

Hold the extinguisher upright and remember the word “**P-A-S-S**”:



**P for Pull**  
Pull the pin, ring or seal.



**A for Aim:**  
Aim the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire. Remember, most fire extinguishers last only 8-10 seconds. Make sure you aim at the base of the fire **before** you release.



**S for Squeeze:**  
Squeeze or press the handle.



**S for Sweep:**  
Sweep slowly from side to side at the base of the fire until the fire goes out.

### Buying Tips

Several types of fire extinguishers are available:

- Extinguishers labeled "A" are effective for combating fires involving paper, cloth, wood or other ordinary combustibles.
- Extinguishers labeled "B" are effective for fighting fires involving gasoline, kitchen grease, paints, solvents or other flammable liquids.

- Extinguishers labeled "C" are effective for fighting fires involving electrical equipment, wiring and appliances.
- Multipurpose dry chemical extinguishers labeled "ABC" are effective for fighting most types of fires.
- Generally speaking, an A-B-C type extinguisher is recommended for home use.

### Safety Tips

- Make sure you have a clear escape route before you attempt to put out a fire.
- Stay low to avoid fumes and smoke.
- Double check to make sure the fire is completely out.
- After an earthquake, turn off your stove and unplug all appliances.
- Get out immediately and call 9-1-1 to notify authorities.**

### Smoke Detectors

You can reduce your risk of fire-related death or injury, particularly during sleeping hours, by installing smoke detectors in the following locations:

- Bedrooms
- Hallways and corridors between rooms
- Stairway ceilings
- Basements, attics and garages
- Living room and den

**Be sure to test your smoke detectors each month and change batteries annually. This also is a good time to check your fire extinguishers.**

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This information sheet is produced as part of the Emergency Survival Program (ESP). ESP is an awareness campaign designed to increase home, neighborhood, business and school emergency preparedness. ESP was developed by the County of Los Angeles. The California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) and representatives from Contra Costa, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Ventura counties, Southern California Edison, the Southern California Earthquake Center and the American Red Cross assist in the development of campaign materials and coordination of the campaign.