



Workforce and Talent Management Training Curriculum Series



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Fire Safety Level 1 Training

Trainers Manual



EDUCATION & TRAINING
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Overview and Instructions

The New York State Office For People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) have partnered to develop a three-hour Level One training for all employees on the topic of Fire Safety. Fire Safety Level One training is an introductory training with a focus on fire safety awareness the responsibilities of employees within the OPWDD system in regard to fire safety.

This Fire Safety Level One Instructor guide accompanies the OPWDD Fire Safety Level One DVD and Power Point document (both are available online on OPWDD's website www.opwdd.ny.gov and selecting the Education and Training Online Resource Library link), and is to be used to deliver Fire Safety Level One training to employees, volunteers and other persons working with people with developmental disabilities. The complete training can be delivered via classroom instruction in three hours. This instructor guide provides a framework of the Fire Safety Level One curriculum which was created to help new and existing employees understand fire safety, fire prevention and awareness, and evacuation.

If your agency does not have sufficient resources to provide classroom instruction, your employees may watch the Fire Safety Level One Training via DVD (please go to www.opwdd.ny.gov and select the Education and Training Online Resource Library link for information on how to obtain a copy of the DVD or watch the video online). This three-hour DVD is a recording of an OFPC instructor providing the Level One Training to an audience of OPWDD employees and provider agency trainers.

Preparing for and Delivering the Fire Safety Level One Training Session:

Please carefully review the following information prior to the training to help ensure your Fire Safety Level One Training goes smoothly. You should watch the full, three-hour DVD training to see the Fire Safety Level One training delivered by the OFPC Instructor. It is suggested that you prepare work-related examples and open-ended questions to encourage active participation from the participants. You should anticipate questions from participants. **Remember, instructor effectiveness is directly proportionate to the preparation, energy and enthusiasm of the instructor.**

Fire Safety Level One Training Suggestions:

- The location should be **accessible** for people with special needs
- The location should have **parking available** and be close to **public transportation**.



- The location should have a **comfortable** environment (good lighting, space, climate)
- The training room should be set up in a style suitable for participation and group interaction
- All requests for reasonable accommodation should be satisfied.
- Make sure your **equipment is in good working condition** (e.g., computer, projectors, etc.)
- It is recommended that name tags or name tents be used for trainers and participants

Monitoring Your Language:

You, as a trainer, are an important role model in the proper use of accurate and non-offending language during training. Keep the following suggestions in mind:

- **Avoid Acronyms.** The use of unexplained or confusing acronyms confuses people, and makes them feel uninformed. It is okay to use acronyms, after you have explained what they mean.
- **Use “person first” language.** A disability label should not define a person. Say “child with autism” or “person with cerebral palsy,” rather than “autistic child” or “cerebral palsied adult.” Be careful to use preferred descriptions of disabilities, like “hearing impaired,” rather than “hard of hearing,” or “neurologically impaired,” rather than “brain injured.

Curriculum Format:

- The Fire Safety Level One Training Instructor Guide is organized into three modules. Each section begins with a title page that includes:
 1. Section Overview
 2. Objectives
 3. Time
 4. Materials and Training Method



Welcoming Participants:

- Introduce yourself and give a synopsis of your educational background and experience in the areas of fire safety and training. **The trainer should use a personal anecdote to illustrate a special connection to the field and the audience.**
- Trainers should briefly review the course outline and schedule with the participants. **(Be sure to inform participants of session duration and scheduled breaks.)**
- Inform the participants that they must stay for the entire training.

Group Activity:

Prior to beginning Module 1, you should allow the participants to introduce themselves and participate in a group activity to be used as an ice-breaker. You may use the ideas provided below, or create your own activity.

Ice Breaker Exercise:

- Have each person create a place card with their full name and agency
- Go around the room and have each person say the following **(you should go first to help break the ice)**:
 1. Name
 2. Position title
 3. What do they want to learn more about in regard to fire safety

If time permits, you can use additional ice breakers:

- Something interesting that happened to you this morning in 15 words or less
- Describe yourself using the first letter of your first name
- State a strength and a weakness about yourself



Module One: Fire Awareness and Safety Concerns

Module One provides decision making tools to help employees correctly respond to an emergency situation involving fire. This module also serves to dispel some of people's preconceived ideas about fire and survival.

Objectives:

At the end of this section participants will have:

- An understanding of OPWDD's Mission and how proper fire safety training helps meet the Mission of the Agency
- An understanding of preconceived ideas about fire and survival
- An understanding that individuals served by OPWDD and its provider agencies are five times more likely to die in a fire than people in the general population
- An understanding that employees are not firefighters but are first responders

Time: One hour

Materials: OPWDD/OFPC Power Point (DVD option)

Training Method(s): Lecture and discussion (or DVD option with discussion)

Introduce this section by going over the importance of Fire Safety, and how it is a part of OPWDD's Mission of helping people with developmental disabilities live richer lives.

Inform Participants:

- OPWDD stands for the New York State Office For People With Developmental Disabilities.

Review:



The Mission of OPWDD:

We help people with developmental disabilities live richer lives.

The Vision of OPWDD:

People with developmental disabilities enjoy meaningful relationships with friends, family and others in their lives, experience personal health and growth and live in the home of their choice and fully participate in their communities.

Review the OPWDD/OFPC Module One Power Point slides and emphasize the points being made. Ask the participants for their responses after seeing various slides.



Instructor Goals

- Give you a high quality presentation that you believe was worth your time
- Give you information that you can use every day ... not just at work ... and that may literally save your life
- Give you decision-making tools to help you correctly respond to an emergency
- Shatter some of your preconceived ideas about fire and survival



Photos and text will autofill

They come for a variety of places. They come with a variety of abilities. They come from a variety of family backgrounds. Whatever their circumstance ... they are in your hands!!

I speak to you today, not of your rights as Americans, but of **your responsibilities**. They are many in number and different in nature. They do not rest with equal weight upon the shoulders of all. Equality of opportunity does not mean equality of responsibility. **All Americans must be responsible citizens, but some must be more responsible than others** by virtue of their public or their private position, their role in the family or community, their prospects for the future, or their legacy from the past. Increased responsibility goes with increased ability. For those to whom much is given, much is required.

John F. Kennedy
18 May 1963

Emphasize the greater responsibility of care staff

**It is impossible to
overemphasize staff
responsibility and
impact**

Lives are directly tied to staff prevention, decisiveness, and quick action. Knowing what to do and doing it quickly will be the difference between success and tragedy.

You're Not Firefighters



Talk about the components of turnout gear, airpaks, training, and the other things that staff does not have and why firefighters have them.

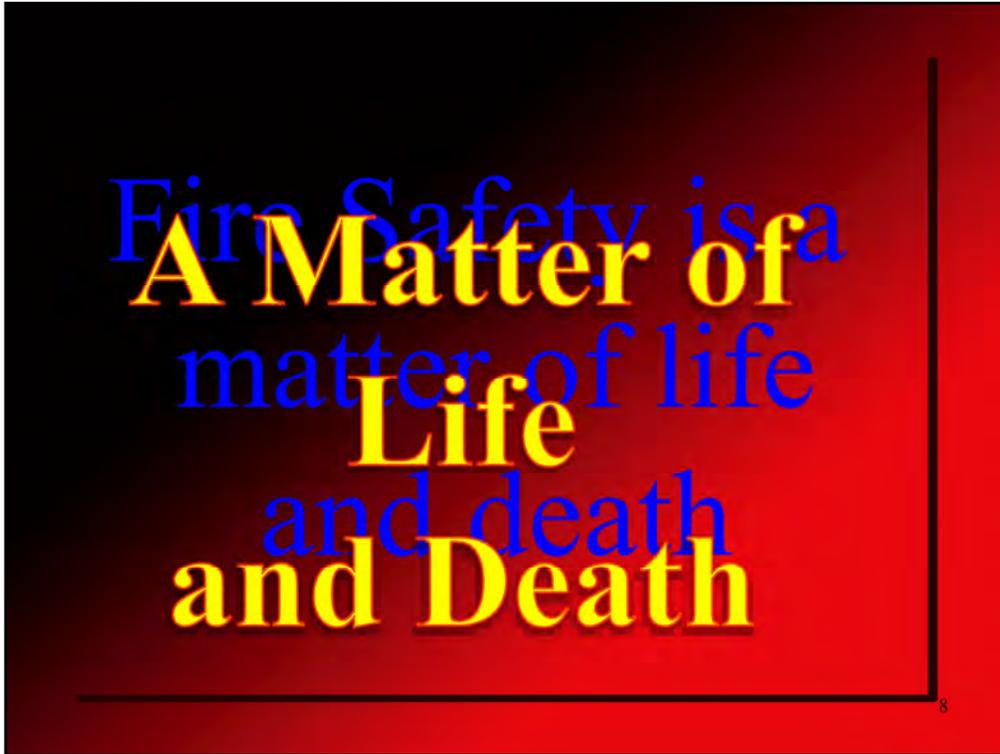
Emphasize that staff who may also be volunteer firefighters must lay aside their firefighting impulses and act according to the evacuation plan for the program in which they work.

Your personal safety must be the priority. If you are harmed you not only create another victim but you are no longer available to assist those you might save.



You are present before the fire department arrives. You will have to make decisions and take action before any other help arrives. The things you decide and do in those first few seconds and minutes of the fire emergency may well be the single most important part of determining the outcome for your individuals and yourself and other staff.

Emphasize that staff who may also be volunteer firefighters must lay aside their firefighting impulses and act according to the evacuation plan for the program in which they work.



This may seem hyperbole ... a gross exaggeration but, such belief derives from cultural myth and ignorance of the true nature and magnitude of the fire problem. Fire injures and kills. Wrong choices in prevention and survival actions can cause death.

The Fire Safety Problem

The United States has the best buildings, the best equipped and best trained fire service in the world but,

**an unacceptable number of
fire deaths**

...year after year after year!

Does that surprise you? Does that bother you?!?

Nothing To Boast About!

America today has the highest fire losses in terms of both frequency and total losses of any modern technological society.

(America at Risk – Federal Emergency Management Agency, May 2000)

Still true 11 years later!!

America's Fire Problem

Over 3,000 deaths

18,000 civilian injuries occur as a result of fire.

115 firefighters killed while on duty.

84 % of civilian fire deaths occurred in residences.

1.6 million fires were reported. Many others are unreported, yet cause injuries & prop. loss.

Over \$15 billion direct property loss

32,000 intentionally set structure fires resulted in 315 civilian deaths.

Someone is killed every 2 1/2 hours

**Individuals in the OPWDD
consumer demographic are
five times more likely than
the general population to die
in a fire**

(US Fire Administration statistic)

Lead discussion of why this is true.

- Unique challenges in an emergency
- Lessened ability to detect the fire
- Lessened ability to escape the fire and its effects
- Hindered by their impairments

There may be systems and procedures that make residents safer in OPWDD and/or provider facilities. This is an overall statistic from disabled persons. However, the characteristics must be addressed in the residential board and care environment.

USFA:

Physical disability was a contributing factor in an estimated average of 360 (13%) home fire deaths per year.

54% of the victims died as a result of home fires with working smoke alarms compared to only 37% of home fire victims overall.

One-quarter of victims with physical disabilities were unable to act to save themselves.

53% of the victims were involved in ignition and in the area of origin when the incident began.

Victims were more likely to die from a fire that began with either mattresses or bedding (20% versus 13% of all home fire victims), or clothing (12% versus 5% of all home victims).

NFPA: Physical Disability As A Factor In Fire Death 2009 – report -
<http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/DisabilityExecSum.pdf>

The Fire Safety Problem

**We don't believe
we have a problem**

The average person in the U.S. not only doesn't take fire as a serious threat, they never even think about it. Many believe the myth that fire is just something that happens. While fire deaths may be a horrible tragedy, there is really nothing that can be done and those deaths must just be considered unavoidable losses. In a recent survey (2011) 98% of people surveyed said they did not fear fire. For the most part, people do not believe it will happen to them. This false perception must be dispelled.



www.nhtsa.gov

Report to Congress

Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives
and
the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
of the Senate

National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration

Motor Vehicle Trunk Entrapment
February 2000

1987 – 1998

25 deaths from entrapment in auto trunks

Oct. 17, 2000:

NHTSA issues new rules requiring that all passenger cars with trunks have a release or other automatic system to allow children and adults to escape if trapped in the trunk. The rules went into effect in September 2001.



During the same period **58,395** died in fire

Official: 12 of 13 miners dead

Wednesday, January 4, 2006

TALLMANSVILLE, West Virginia -- Eleven miners initially reported to be alive

THE DOMINION Post

Correction

12 miners dead; 1 survives Sago accident

Previous reports erroneous

Survivor at Ruby in critical condition

12 miners dead

Family members stand by the casket of 12 of 13 trapped and miners were found dead. Three hours after they were told the stress had cracked.

The goal of this and the next four slides is to emphasize how little attention is paid to fire losses as contrasted with events that happen with minute frequency. Ask how many remember this event. For those who don't, briefly recount the story. "I would never discount in any way how horrible this tragedy was. To be trapped underground with the full knowledge that the frantic and best efforts of your co-workers attempting rescue would, in all probability, fail is unimaginable." Emphasize the attention this got: News outlets nationwide, and even worldwide, covered this continually for two weeks. As far out as a couple of years later, segments were aired reporting millions of government dollars and legislation for mine safety and the reference that precipitated them was the Sago mine incident.

While that event was in the news:

In one weekend...

20 people died in fires ...

Twenty!

9 people, 6 of them children, in
one fire alone!

No one, outside of the immediate localities where the deaths occurred even noticed. Fire deaths are occurring day after day and there are almost no government dollars or laws passed to provide greater fire safety. In fact, the little money that has been available through federal fire prevention grants is being reduced every single year since the program was established.

29 Miners dead

Monday, April 5, 2010

Raleigh County, West Virginia

– 29 Miners killed in explosion.

Made headlines for a week

Including the President and Vice President attended the memorial service



http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=10636714

The day that event occurred 20 people in the US perished in Residential Fires:

Twenty!

That same week Monday – Friday
45 people perished in Residential
Fires

Friday, April 9

- 1 dead **Georgetown, MD (Baltimore, MD)** – An elderly man was killed in a home fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- 1 dead **Winn, MI (Flint, MI)** – A 55-year-old man was killed in an apartment fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- 1 dead **Greeneville, TN (Tri-Cities, TN)** – On Friday, 4/9 a 40-year-old man succumbed to injuries sustained in an apartment fire that occurred on Thursday, 4/8. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- 1 dead **Newark, OH (Columbus, OH)** – A 37-year-old man was killed in an apartment fire. Officials are investigating careless smoking as a possible cause of the fire.

Thursday, April 8

- 1 dead **Lawrence, IN (Indianapolis, IN)** – A 50-year-old man was killed in a home fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- 1 dead **Joliet, IL (Chicago, IL)** – A five-year-old boy was killed in an apartment fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- 1 dead **Mobile, AL** – A 49-year-old man was killed in an apartment fire. The fire was caused by unattended cooking.
- 1 dead **Angie, LA (New Orleans, LA)** – An 84-year-old woman was killed in a home fire. The fire was caused by an electrical malfunction. The home had no working smoke alarms.
- 1 dead **Washington, DC** – An elderly man was killed in a home fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Wednesday, April 7

- 5 dead **Sulphur Well, KY (Louisville, KY)** – Four children and an adult were killed in a manufactured home fire. Officials believe there were as many as 14 people living in the home. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- 1 dead **Torrance, CA (Los Angeles, CA)** – An elderly woman was killed in a condominium fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- 1 dead **Long Neck, DE (Salisbury, MD)** – A man was killed in a manufactured home fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation. The home had no working smoke alarms.
- 1 dead **Morristown, TN (Knoxville, TN)** – A 51-year-old woman was killed in a home fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- 1 dead **Northwoods, MO (St. Louis, MO)** – An 81-year-old woman was killed in a home fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Tuesday, April 6

- 2 dead **Martinsville, VA (Roanoke – Lynchburg, VA)** – A 50-year-old woman and her eight-year-old granddaughter were killed in a home fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- 1 dead **Virginia Beach, VA (Norfolk, VA)** – A 75-year-old man was killed in a home fire. The fire was caused by careless smoking in bed. The home had no working smoke alarms.
- 1 dead **Pickens County, SC (Greenville, SC – Asheville, NC)** – A 72-year-old man was killed in a manufactured home fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- 1 dead **Cocke County, TN (Knoxville, TN)** – A 49-year-old man was killed in a manufactured home fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- 1 dead **Port Richmond, PA (Philadelphia, PA)** – An elderly man was killed in a home fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation. The sole smoke alarm in the home was found in the basement with the battery installed backward, preventing it from working.
- 1 dead **Venice, FL (Tampa – St. Petersburg, FL)** – A 53-year-old disabled woman was killed in a home fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

The Fire Threat

Fire is by far the greatest,
but least recognized, safety
threat to the population in
the United States

The Fire Safety Problem

- Fire kills more Americans than all natural disasters combined



Get interaction by, as a disaster appears, asking how many deaths attendees believe occurred in the ten year period because of that type of event.

Hurricanes includes the anomaly of Katrina

Emphasize the difference in press coverage and attention given to the natural disasters and the lack of them given to the vastly larger fire problem.

Legend of the Seas – 1,800 passengers

Queen Elizabeth II – 1,791 passengers

Disney Magic – 1,754 passengers

Century – 1,750 passengers



If two cruise ships sank

---- every year ----

Something would be done!



The Fire Safety Problem

- Fire kills more Americans than all natural disasters combined
- Unlike natural disasters, almost all fire losses can be prevented
- Human error is the most significant factor in the cause and spread of fire

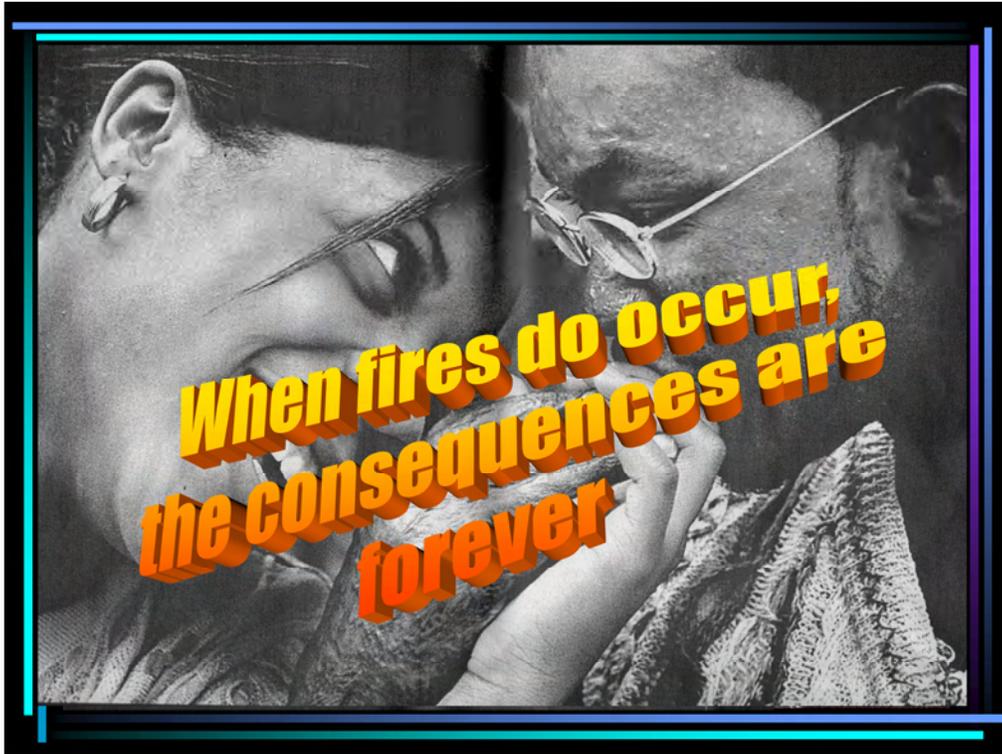
Emphasize that fire deaths are preventable. Because the most prominent factor is human behavior, if we change behavior we eliminate the tragedy.

Why do more than 3000
Americans die in fires each year?

Bad Choices

Almost every one of the fire deaths could have been prevented. Best, by proper prevention choices. Secondly by proper survival provisions and actions choices.

**Those injured
by fire
lose their lives
too**



Burn injuries cause loss of health, loss of ability, loss of employment possibilities, loss of friends and family who cannot cope with the physical and emotional results, loss of unfathomable amounts of money for medical care ... horrible pain and years of medical attention ... nothing is ever the same or the life the victim expected, planned, and hoped for.

For background, the most powerful resource about the aftermath of fire is a book by Robin Gaby-Fisher: [After The Fire](#)

PERCEPTION

**People think they
are safest from fire
in their homes**

Teach the false perception vs. the reality on the next slide.

REALITY

The risk of dying in
fire is the greatest
in one's home ...

Solutions 2000

Over 90% of fire fatalities occur in homes.

The Fire Safety Problem

Fire Myths

- ‘Fire won’t happen to me. Fires happen to other people.’
- ‘Fires are just something that happen. There is nothing we can do about it.’



It is easy to become complacent about the danger of fire and come to the false belief that it could not happen here or to me.

It is easy to “mistake good luck for good practice.”

The fact that a person has never experienced a fire usually has nothing to do with right choices by that person. It is, most often, purely good luck. Experience is not always a good teacher. Never having experienced fire in no way means we won't if we don't do the right things. People routinely fail to give proper attention and planning to high consequence, low probability events.

"Tomorrow, some of us may have to make split-second choices to save ourselves and our families. How will we react? What will it feel like? Will we be heroes or victims? Will our upbringing, our gender, our personality - anything we've ever learned, thought, or dreamed of - ultimately matter?"

– The Unthinkable - Who Survives When Disaster Strikes -- And Why by Amanda Ripley

The information in this course is designed to help care providers to make decisions, often split second decisions, about actions to take in fire emergencies. While evacuation plans are critical and to be followed, there must be an understanding of the development and behavior of fire which will allow correct, alternate actions when faced with dissimilar occurrences.

Decision-making tools: It is essential to instill a proper fire and response mentality in staff. Cultural myths about fire must be shattered. What fire truly is, the reality of its threat, how it behaves, and the speed of fire must be owned by staff and become part of their decision-making process. Throughout their training, instructors must hammer home the idea that the most deadly weapon in the battle for fire survival is not a sprinkler system, a fire alarm system, a fire truck, or any other technological or construction component; rather, it's a sharp and flexible mind combined with a decisive and creative mind-set. 'Fire is inherently chaos.' Staff must embrace this concept and prepare themselves to think creatively and independently, because, more often than not, conditions on the ground will change so rapidly that original orders and well-thought-out plans become irrelevant. If they can't manage chaos' uncertainty, if they can't bias themselves for action and if they wait around for someone else to tell them what to do, then the enemy (fire) will make their decisions for them and people may die. Ultimately, then, the best way to keep people alive in a fire emergency is to instill in every staff member a decisive mind that can quickly separate the crucial from the irrelevant, synthesize the output, and use this intelligence to create little bubbles of order in the all-out chaos that is fire.



This segment is intended to dispel misconceptions most people hold about fire. The vast majority will have no concept of the speed and heat of fire, the effect of smoke and the loss of visibility in a fire emergency.

Fire is:

“A rapid, persistent chemical change that releases heat and light and is accompanied by flame, especially the exothermic oxidation of a combustible substance.”

Read the dictionary definition then ask the question, “So what?” What follows will take us away from the technical definition to the reality of how fire impacts me personally and what I must do to protect myself and my consumers.



Emphasize that fire doubles every 30 seconds – one minute. That means that an entire room can be totally unsurvivable in a couple of minutes.

You may use the illustration of a trash can fire. In 30 seconds the volume of fire is 2 trash cans. In a minute, 4 trash cans. In a minute and a half, 8. In 2 minutes, 16 ... 32 ... 64 ... 128 ... 256 ... etc.

- Sprinkler systems may provide some extra time for escape but, emphasize that escape must still be rapid. It may be easy to have the fact that a building is sprinklered give staff a false sense of security or false belief about how long they have to evacuate.

In repeated surveys:

Almost all over-estimated the time they believed they had to escape a fire

Potentially fatal estimates of 5, 10, 15, and even 20 minutes have consistently been given in interviews and surveys



**Can you beat
it to the door?**

Building construction types, age, etc. as related to the speed of fire. Modifications can be and have been made inside but in a very short time there is no “safe” area in the homes.



Temperatures can reach 1200 degrees or more at the ceiling, hundreds of degrees at eye level, in a matter of a very few minutes. Use illustration like opening an oven to remove an item that has baked at 350 or 400 degrees and not being able to stand the heat on your face. Then ask students to try to imagine three times that temperature



Most people that die in fires die from inhaling the toxic gases and deadly smoke, not exposure to heat or flame impingement. Everything that burns in a residence decomposes or experiences chemical reactions that produce deadly gases. Plastics and synthetics of all kinds, paints and finishes ... furniture, carpets, housewares, clothing, everything.

Deadly Smoke and Gases

- Smoke and toxic gases adversely effect bodily functions
 - Slower mental processes
 - Slower physical action or movement
 - Burns
 - Respiratory irritation or arrest

Most people believe they would wake up and have time to escape if a fire occurred in their residence. The reality is that the products of combustion released in the smoke and toxic gases would likely put them into a deeper sleep and make it less likely they would wake up or be able to take action to escape.

- Paints, fabrics, foam padding, upholstery ... all synthetics decompose into poison gas in a fire.
- These effects can be exaggerated by or worsen disabilities consumers already have.

Deadly Smoke and Gases

- Carbon Monoxide
- Carbon Dioxide
- Hydrogen Cyanide
- Hydrogen Chloride
- Nitrogen Dioxide

Carbon Monoxide

Large quantities in fires

Asphyxiation by displacing oxygen in blood

Cumulative

Carbon Dioxide

Displacement of oxygen

Increases inhalation and thus toxics

30 minute exposure produces signs of intoxication

Hydrogen Cyanide

Inhibits use of oxygen by all living cells of body tissue (Cyanide pills for spies)

Hydrogen Chloride

Upper respiratory damage leading to asphyxiation

In water = hydrochloric acid

Nitrogen Dioxide

Highly toxic

Damages respiratory tissue by reacting with moisture



The lesson here is the fast development of smoke and the loss of all visibility

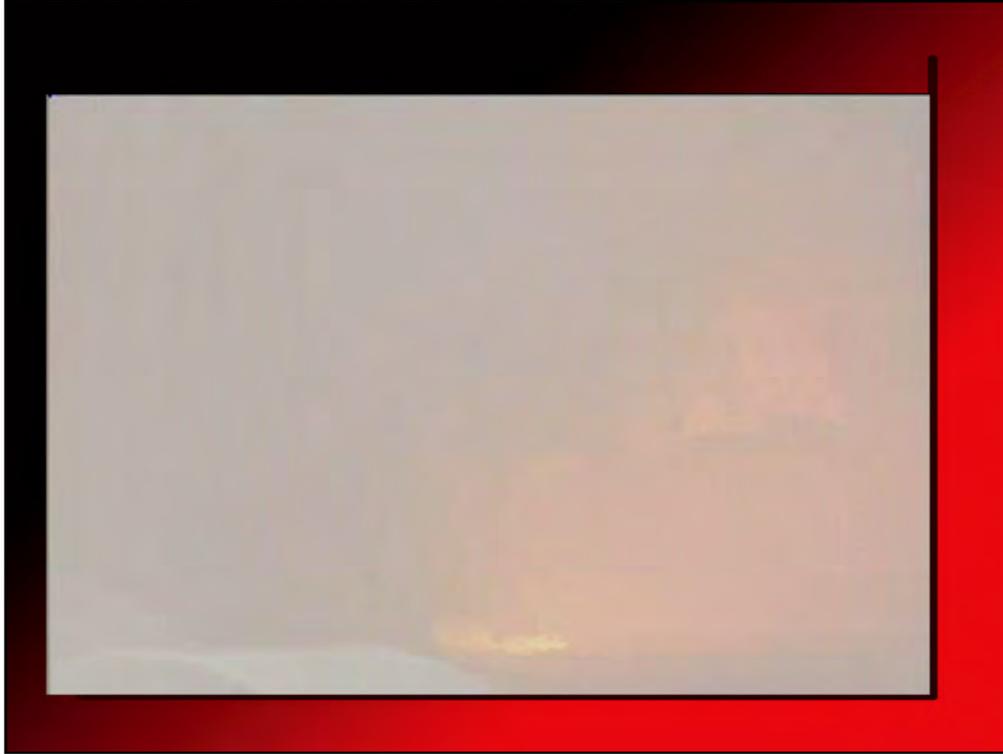
Deadly Smoke and Gases

#1 danger

reduced visibility



You can almost certainly lose some or all visibility during the fire emergency. It is often recommended that evacuation drills be performed simulating the inability to see exits or other landmarks that might aid exiting under normal circumstances.



Marble Mountain video visualizes the rapid development of fire with its unsurvivable heat. It is a good emphasis to have students note the temperature of 216 degrees at 2 minutes 5 seconds into the fire. " Our bodies are 85% _____ ? (water) And, at 212 degrees water _____ ? (boils) So, if I'm in that room, even at the floor level, I am _____ ? (boiling/dead)

Fire is:

The rapid destruction
of your life as you
know it.



The most important message is that the fire threat is real, that their work location or home or office is not exempt. Fire can happen anywhere if the right prevention measures are not taken and plan for survival not properly written and rehearsed. The Wells home, where 4 consumers died, was the newest and best in the system. If it can happen there, it can happen in your residence.



Transition to Module Two: Prevention and Hazards



Module Two: Prevention and Hazards

Overview: The purpose of this module is to provide relevant information on the topic of fire prevention and safety by reviewing common mistakes and issues people often overlook in this area. The three goals of fire prevention (life safety, property conservation, and continuity of operations) are also explained and emphasized in terms of OPWDD and provider agency operations.

Objectives:

At the end of this section participants will be able to:

- Identify the components of the fire tetrahedron
- Understand that fire prevention is simply separating the components of the tetrahedron
- Identify the primary causes of residential fires
- Identify potential fire hazards in the residential setting
- Know ways of minimizing potential hazards
- Understand the importance of fire prevention as the only way to truly eliminate or reduce fire deaths, injuries, and property loss

Time: One hour

Materials: OPWDD/OFPC Power Point Slides (or DVD option)

Training Method(s): Lecture and discussion (DVD option with discussion)

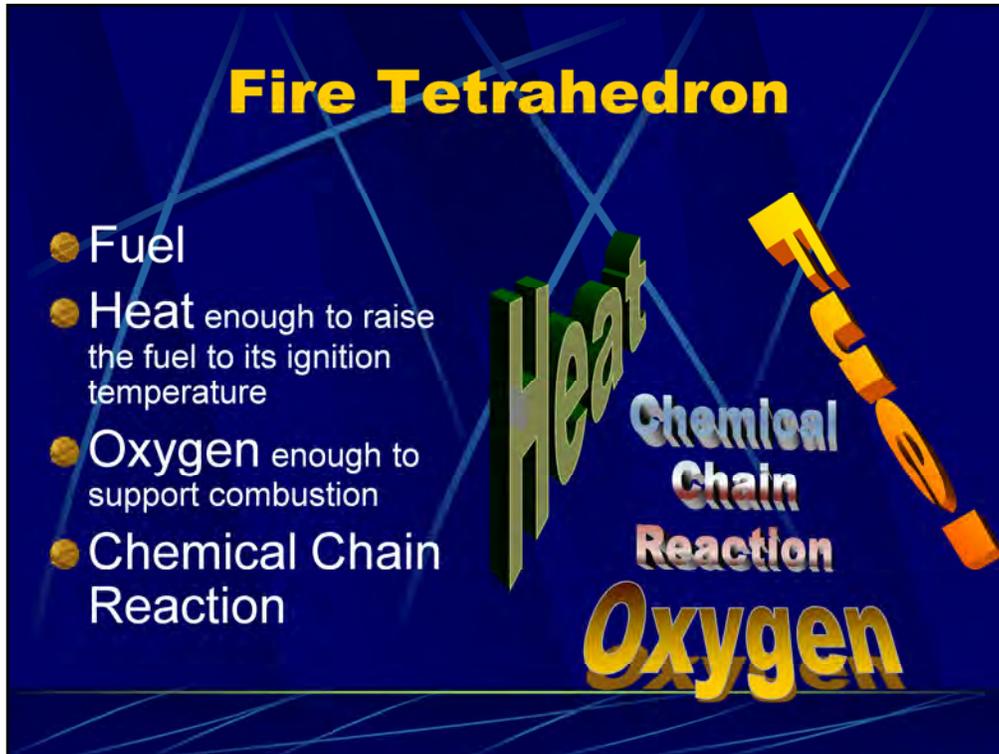
Review the OPWDD/OFPC Module Two Power Point slides and emphasize the points being made. Ask the participants for their responses after seeing various slides.

Prevention and Hazards

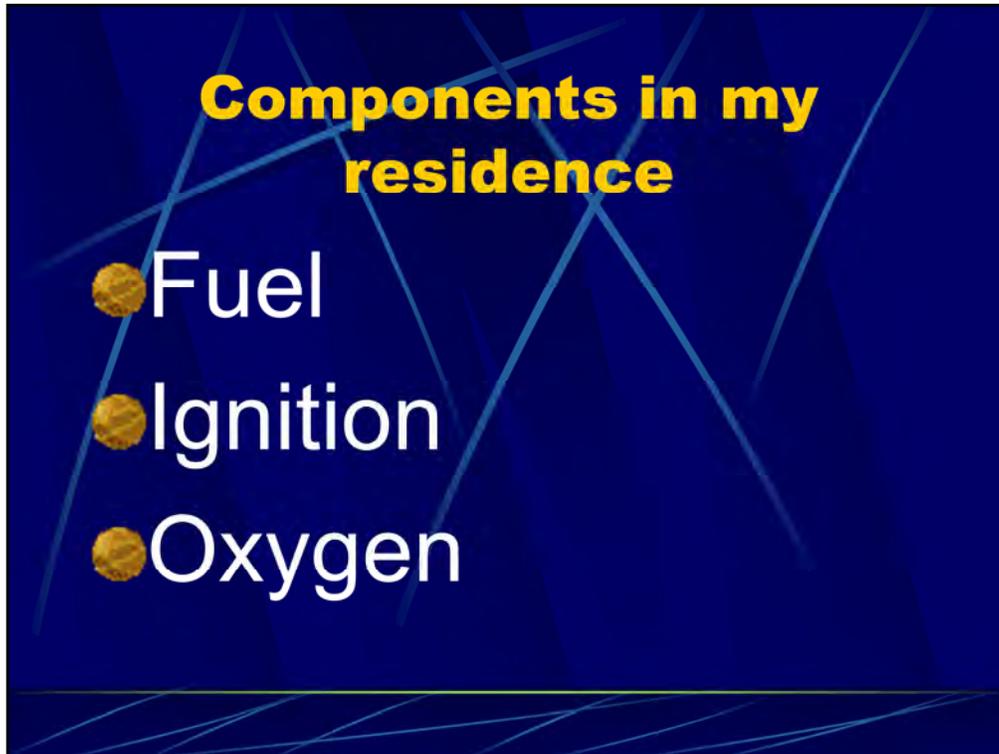
Fire Safety - Level 1 - Unit 2



This unit will emphasize the truth that only fire prevention can eliminate or reduce fire deaths, injuries, and property loss. Fire apparatus and equipment and firefighters and anything else in the area of suppression is after the loss or its potential has begun. To prevent the fire means the fire incident will never have to be experienced in the first place and loss is impossible since the fire never happened.



- Chemical Chain Reaction: ongoing process of sustained combustion



Discuss:

- What could be fuel in a residential setting?
- What heat sources in a residential setting could provide ignition temperature?
- What sources of oxygen are part of the residential setting
- How each of these may be different from their counterparts in general 1 and 2 family residences

The basic strategy of fire prevention is to control or isolate sources of fuel and heat in order to prevent combustion.

If all three elements are not present in sufficient quantities a fire will not ignite or a fire will not be able to sustain combustion

Emphasize special oxygen sources and quantities in residential board and care settings

Discussion

- What are some ways to separate the components of the fire tetrahedron as they exist in the residential setting?

Fire Prevention Goals

- **Life Safety**
 - The primary goal of fire safety efforts is to protect building occupants from injury and to prevent loss of life.
- **Property Conservation**
 - The secondary goal of fire safety is to prevent property damage.
- **Continuity of Operations**
 - By preventing fires and limiting damage we can assure that work operations will continue.

Choices must be made about what is most important and in what order actions will be taken. Obviously, saving a life is first and, in that category, the staff member's own life and safety is the sub-priority. To take risks or do things that make themselves a victim amplifies the consequences of the incident by taking additional resources for their rescue or care and by making them unavailable to save or help others. There may come a time when one individual will have to be abandoned for the sake of aiding a person in a more survivable condition ... difficult choice? Yes! But ultimately providing the greater good.

**The best time
to fight a fire
is before it
starts**

Fire Prevention

The most important
firefighting anyone
can do

6

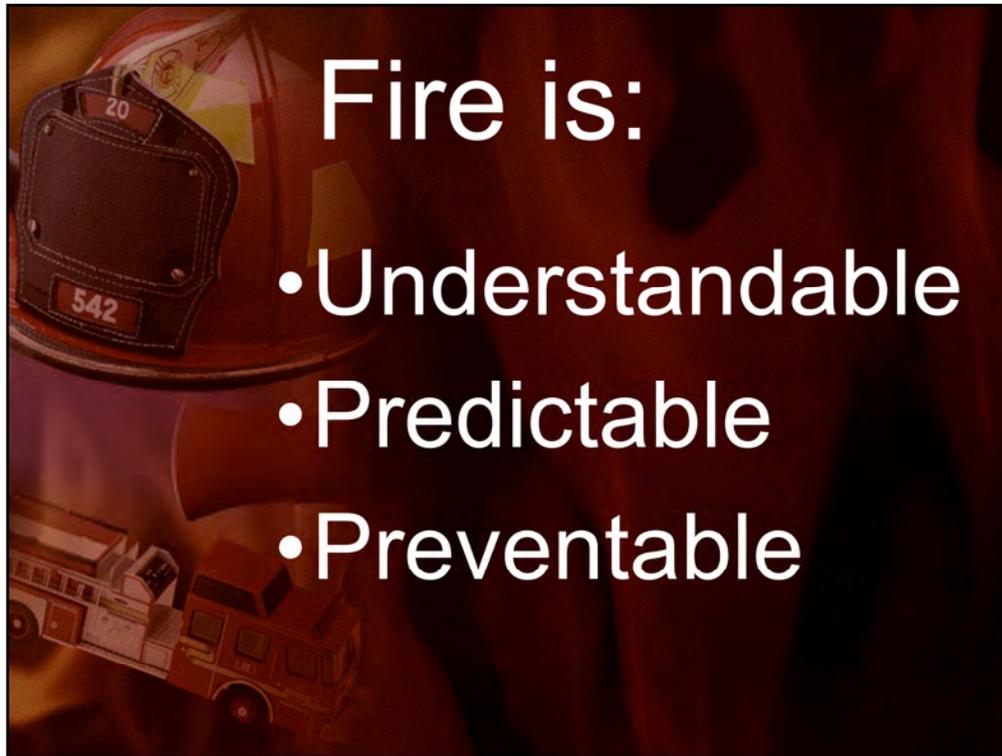
Because it has the highest return in positive results



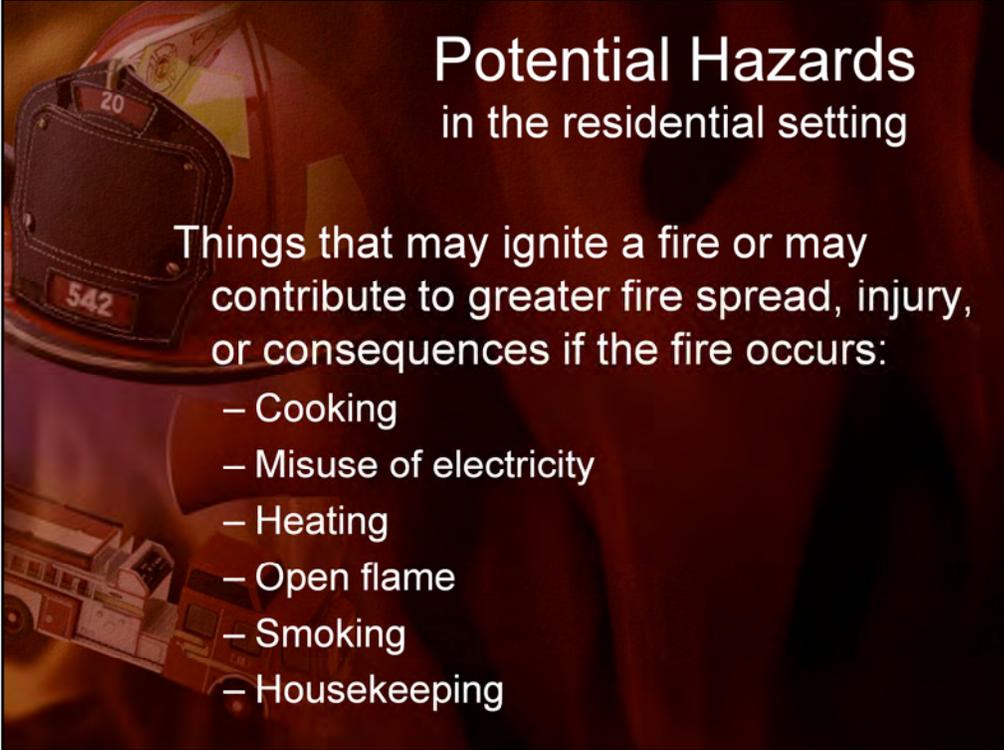
-Prevent the creation of the hazard – FIRE PREVENTION – the best fire is the one that never starts. If the fire event doesn't occur, you will never need the evacuation and survival and recovery elements of this program. That is the point of greatest safety and consumer service.

- Reduce the amount of the hazard - Less ignition sources, less combustibles, greater availability of egress, fire sprinklers, etc.

-Separate by time or space the hazard from that which can be protected – removal of possible fire threats to off-site operations



We know what causes fires. We know how fire behaves. We know measures to enhance survival if a fire occurs



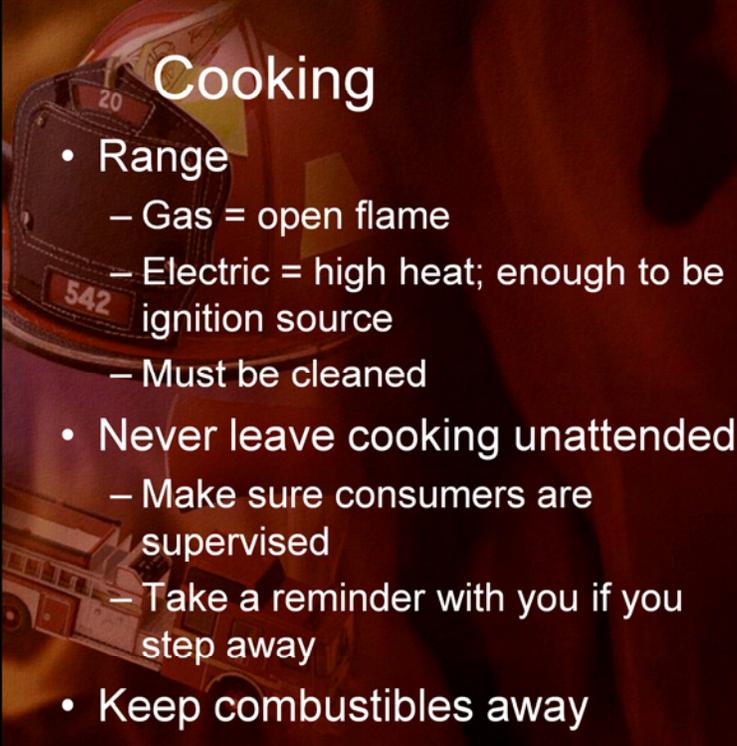
Potential Hazards in the residential setting

Things that may ignite a fire or may contribute to greater fire spread, injury, or consequences if the fire occurs:

- Cooking
- Misuse of electricity
- Heating
- Open flame
- Smoking
- Housekeeping

Cooking

- Range
 - Gas = open flame
 - Electric = high heat; enough to be ignition source
 - Must be cleaned
- Never leave cooking unattended
 - Make sure consumers are supervised
 - Take a reminder with you if you step away
- Keep combustibles away



- Keep combustibles away: paper and cloth products and items and stored oils and greases must be kept away from burners and ovens and heating appliances

Cooking

- Never wear loose-fitting



- Make sure appliances are cool before storing or covering
- Check oven before turning on / don't use for storage



The background of the slide features a fire truck and a fire helmet. The fire truck is positioned in the lower-left corner, and the fire helmet is in the upper-left corner. The helmet has the number '20' on its side and '542' on its front. The overall color scheme is dark red and brown, with a fire-like glow.

Cooking

- Special considerations for barbeque grills
 - Keep well away from residence
 - Maintain a combustible-free space around the grill
 - Never use under any building overhang or covering, in a garage or shed, etc.
 - Never leave unattended

Electrical

- Don't overload receptacles or electrical supply
 - One plug per receptacle
 - Circuit breaker power strips (no piggy backing)
 - If the cord is warm its overloaded
 - Fuses blow, breakers break, lights dim = overload



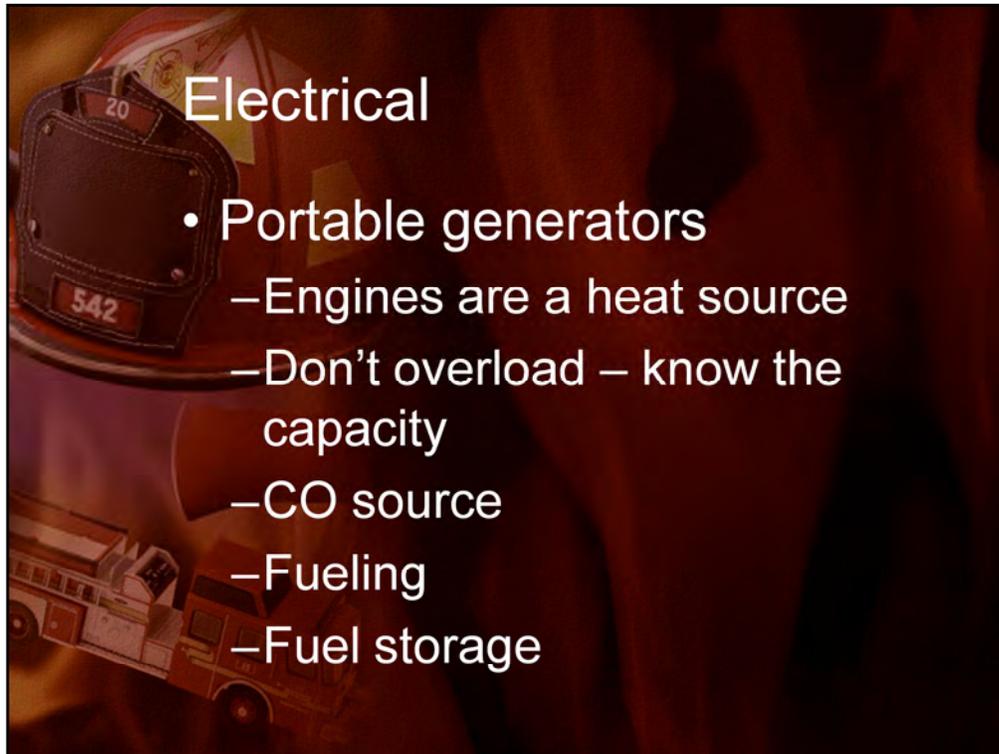
Electrical

- Inspect for (don't att



- Bulbs of only the recommended wattage

One home experienced frequent break-ins, one per year over a five year period. In response to staff concern about exterior lighting, lighting fixtures were added. Unfortunately bulbs were used that were above the recommended wattage, which caused the fixture to melt along with the siding. Fortunately, a staff member saw the damage, turned off the lights and this quick action resolved the matter.



Electrical

- Portable generators
 - Engines are a heat source
 - Don't overload – know the capacity
 - CO source
 - Fueling
 - Fuel storage

-Engines must be kept away from combustibles

-Illustrative story #4

-Know and only use circuits or items that the wattage and current capacities of the generator can handle without overload

-Well ventilated and away from buildings or openings into buildings that could transmit CO into the house

-Safe fueling that avoids spills, ignition sources, etc.

-Not in house, in approved container

Heating

- Furnaces

- Scheduled cleaning and maintenance
- 36 inch combustible-free space around unit
- CO source

- Water heaters

- Combustible-free space around
- CO source (if gas or oil)



Heating



- Space heaters
 - Combustible-free space around
 - Manufacturers instructions
 - No-tip or shutoff



Open Flame



allow the adhesive to dry before the stick is removed

- Hobbies
 - Tools
 - Hot glue
 - Wood-burning
 - Materials and solutions

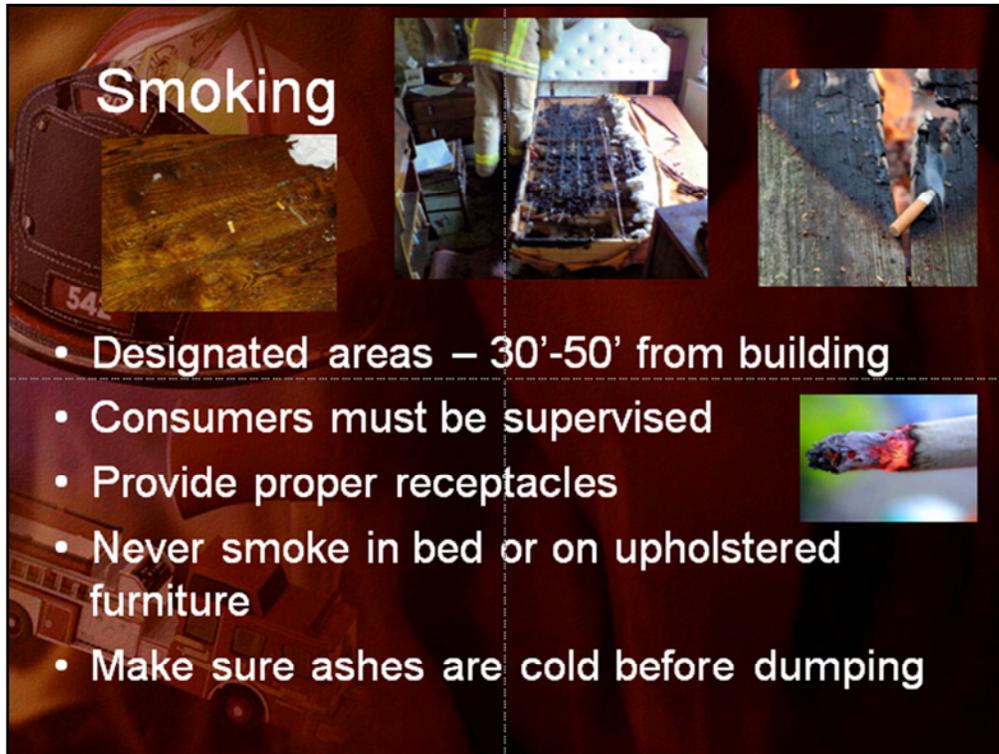




Smoking

Not permitted in State residences

Smoking



- Designated areas – 30'-50' from building
- Consumers must be supervised
- Provide proper receptacles
- Never smoke in bed or on upholstered furniture
- Make sure ashes are cold before dumping

Years earlier, smoking was a more accepted practice in homes. In one particular 10 person ICF with bedrooms on the 2nd floor; common space on the 1st floor; and the recreation room in the basement, with couches and pool table. A self-closing fire rated door was placed at the top of the interior stairwell, which separated the basement and first floor. One consumer was smoking an cigarette butt dropped into the couch. The consumer and staff thought they found the cigarette and finally went up to the 2nd floor to go to bed. About two hours later they awoke to a fire alarm. Staff and consumers safely evacuated but the basement room was gutted. On the fire side, the fire door was charred but the side facing the kitchen showed little evidence o fire. Only some smoke markings showed around the molding.

On March 4, 2011 a voluntary agency in Rochester experienced a fire at a supervised apartment IRA. The fire was a result of the smokers' outpost container catching fire and starting the exterior structure of the building on fire. The fire progressed up the outside wall (possibly between the outer siding and interior wall) to the attic area. The staff smelled smoke, sounded the alarm, and evacuated the apartments. No one was injured but the building suffered extensive smoke and fire damage and the residents were re-located temporarily until the building can be repaired.

Although the staff responded appropriately, the staff/resident were smoking on the premises which is contrary to agency policy and the smokers' outpost was directly located next to the building. Apparently, the outpost container was filled with old butts or combustible debris that caused the fire that flamed up and ignited the building.



Washers and dryers are a critical appliance in any residential care setting, generally running daily. In one home the dryer belt was wearing and overheated. That ignited lint in the laundry room. Staff smelled smoke, identified the laundry room as the location, closed the door to the laundry room and evacuated in accordance with the evacuation plan. The alarm was pulled and the fire department put out the fire. While there was significant damage in the laundry room, prompt action, including closing of the door, contained damage to that room and the home remained habitable.

Housekeeping

- Clothes dryers (continued)



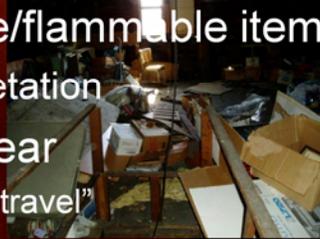
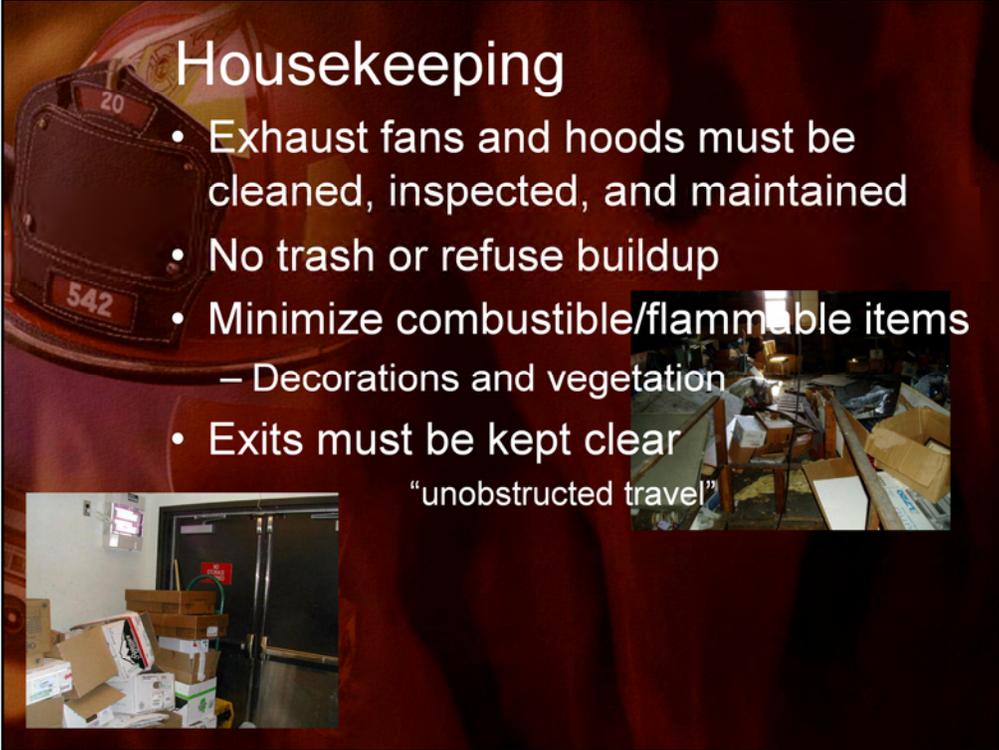
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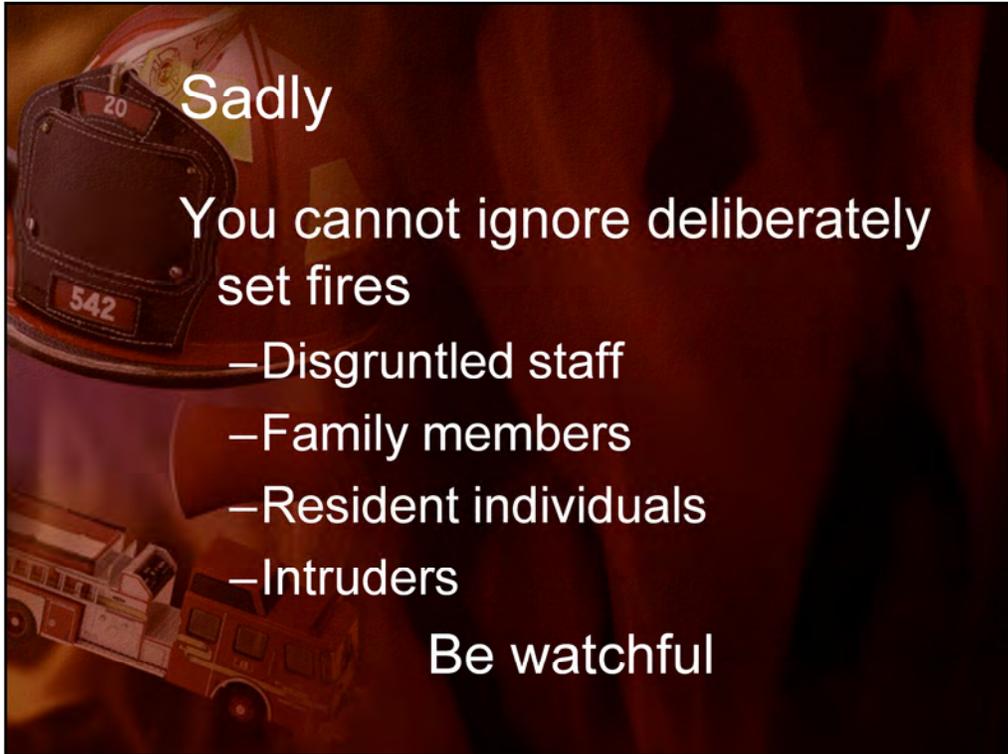


- Never dry items containing
flammables like oil, paint, or
thinner, or alcohol
- Never leave the dryer running
the house or while sleeping

Housekeeping

- Exhaust fans and hoods must be cleaned, inspected, and maintained
- No trash or refuse buildup
- Minimize combustible/flammable items
 - Decorations and vegetation
- Exits must be kept clear
“unobstructed travel”



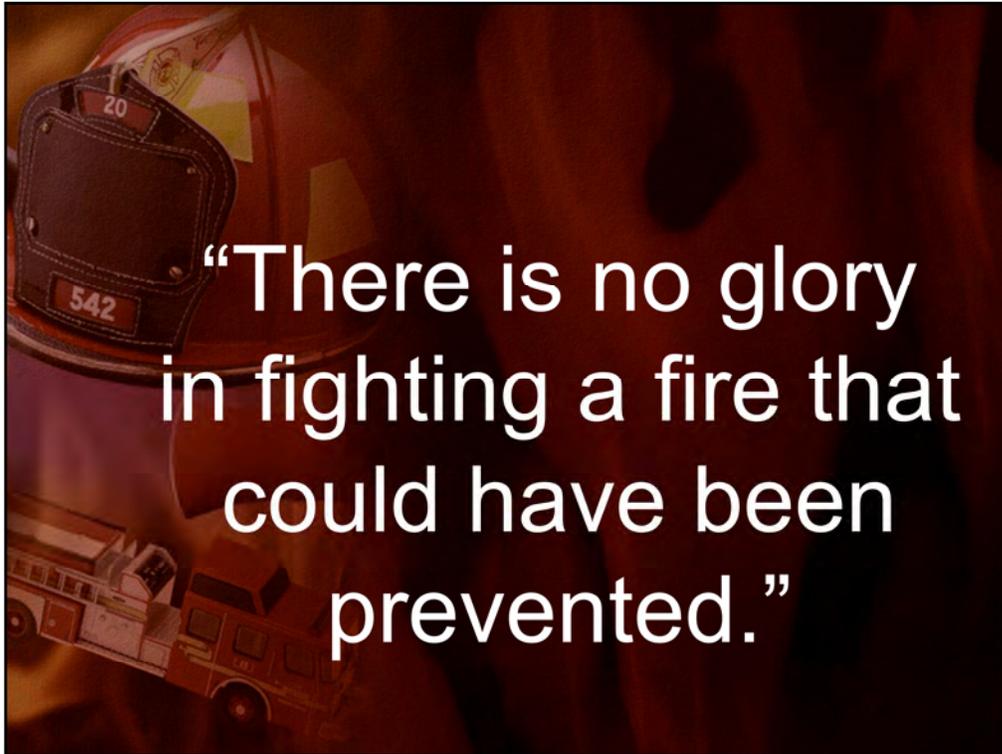


Sadly

You cannot ignore deliberately set fires

- Disgruntled staff
- Family members
- Resident individuals
- Intruders

Be watchful



“There is no glory
in fighting a fire that
could have been
prevented.”



Consumer fire injury and death ... not on my watch!!



Transition to Module 3: Evacuation Execution



Module 3: Evacuation Execution

Overview:

The purpose of this section is to give a presentation of evacuation basics, affecting the RACE process, fire department expectations and impacts, and the assistance staff can provide to local fire departments.

Objectives:

At the end of this section participants will have:

- Convey proper response to a fire alarm and discovery of a fire
- Properly define the elements of the R.A.C.E. evacuation acronym
- Understand components of the evacuation process
- Understand what may or may not be expected from the fire department, and staff assistance to the fire department

Time: One hour

Materials: OPWDD/OFPC Power Point Slides (or DVD option)

Training Method: Classroom Instruction with discussion (or DVD option with discussion)

Review the OPWDD/OFPC Module Three Power Point slides and emphasize the points being made. Ask the participants for their responses after seeing various slides.



When your best efforts at prevention fail. How will you and those you care for survive? There are things that must have been done in advance and decisions that will have to be made during the incident and actions that will be required if survival occurs.



You must be responsible for your own safety. Albany, corporate execs or experts, perhaps even the residence manager, the FD will not ultimately decide if you and consumers survive or don't. You are the First Responders" "In most disasters, the vast majority of rescues were done by ordinary folks." – Ripley

Only after everything goes wrong do we realize we are on our own. And, the bigger the disaster, the longer we will be on our own.

- Talk about the components of turnout gear, airpaks, training, and the other things that staff does not have and why firefighters have them.

Emphasize that staff who may also be volunteer firefighters must lay aside their firefighting impulses and act according to the evacuation plan for the program in which they work.

Your personal safety must be the priority. If you are harmed you not only create another victim but you are no longer available to assist those you might save.



What to do in case
of an alarm or fire:

Get out!
Stay out!

Your individuals, self-preserving or with assistance must evacuate or be placed in a place of safety.



In a fire, the safest place to be is out of the building.



**Can you beat
it to the door?**

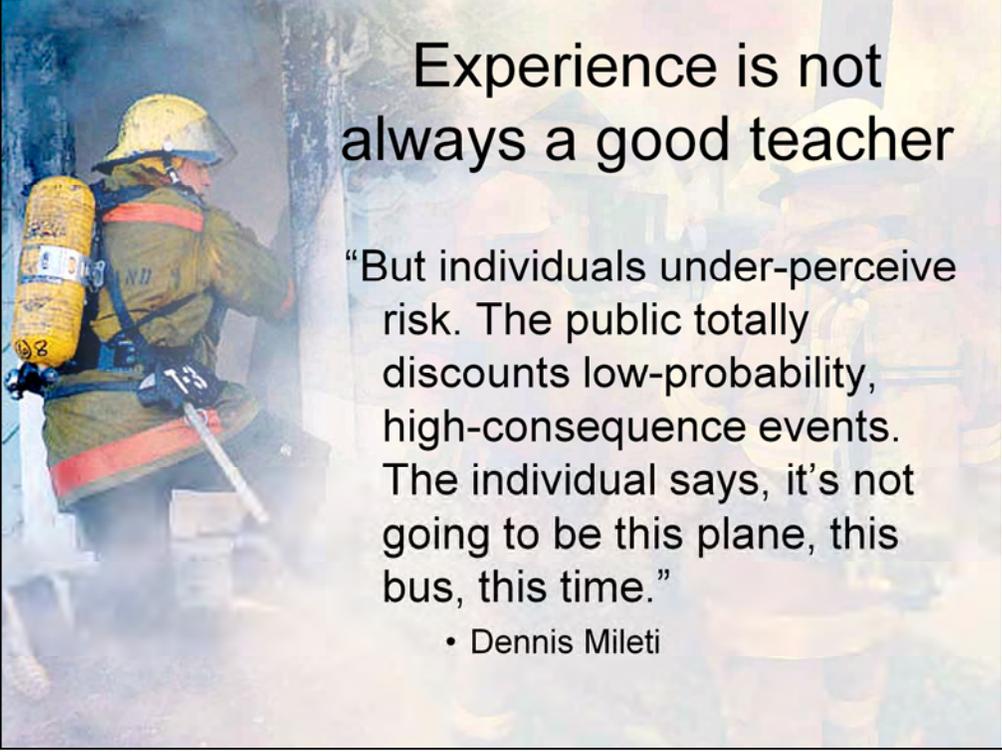
The answer is that unless you do the right things immediately ... no.



Special considerations for persons with disabilities

- Staff must be keenly aware of each consumer's ability for self-preservation and assistance needs. Appropriate evacuation procedures have to be **prearranged** and *rehearsed*.

It's too late to get the information or learn the lessons in the midst of a crisis. **KNOW THE EVACUATION PLAN FOR THE HOME IN WHICH YOU ARE WORKING!**



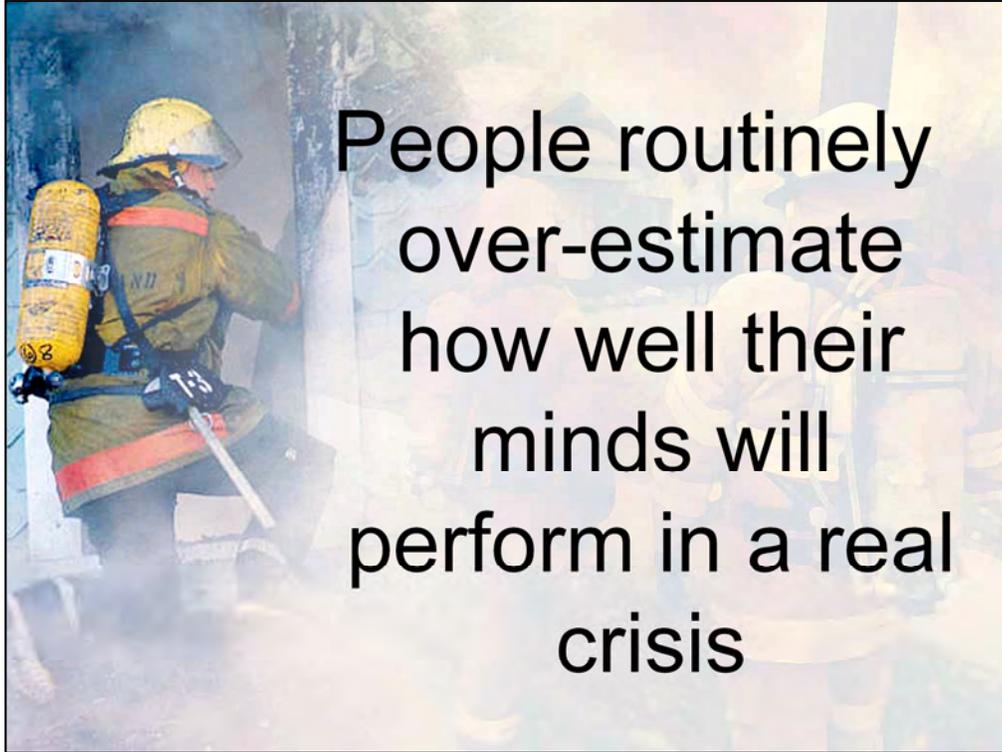
Experience is not
always a good teacher

“But individuals under-perceive risk. The public totally discounts low-probability, high-consequence events. The individual says, it’s not going to be this plane, this bus, this time.”

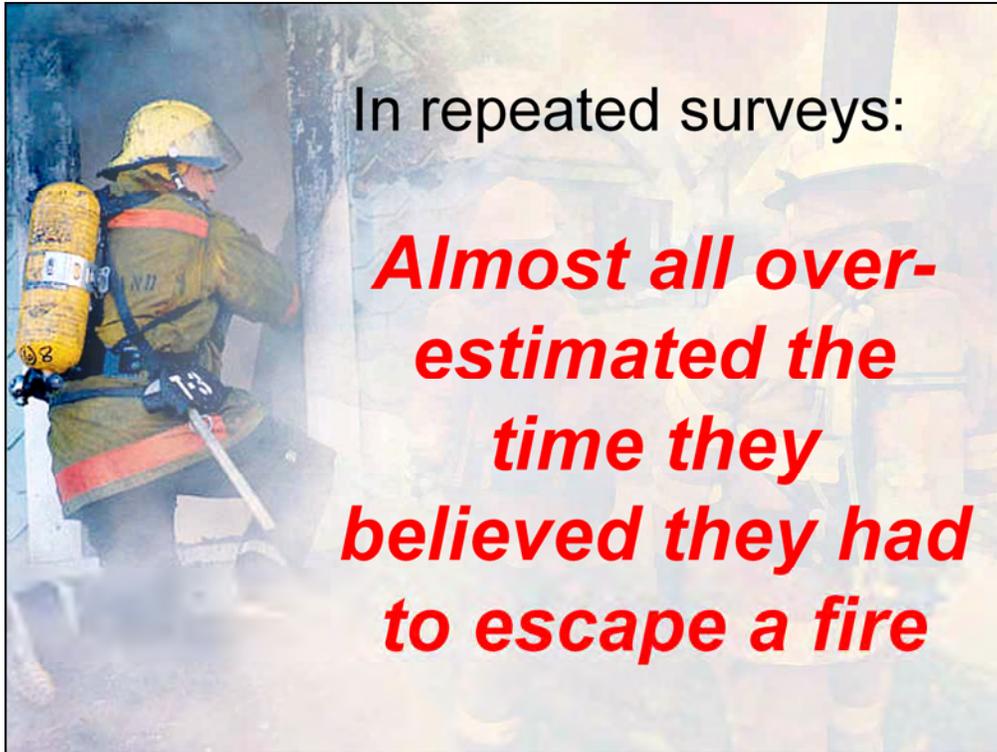
- Dennis Mileti

We have a tendency to believe that everything is OK because, well, it almost always has been before. Psychologists call this tendency the “normalcy bias.” The human brain works by identifying patterns. It uses information from the past to understand what is happening in the present and to anticipate the future. We inevitably see patterns where they don’t exist. In other words, we are slow to recognize exceptions.

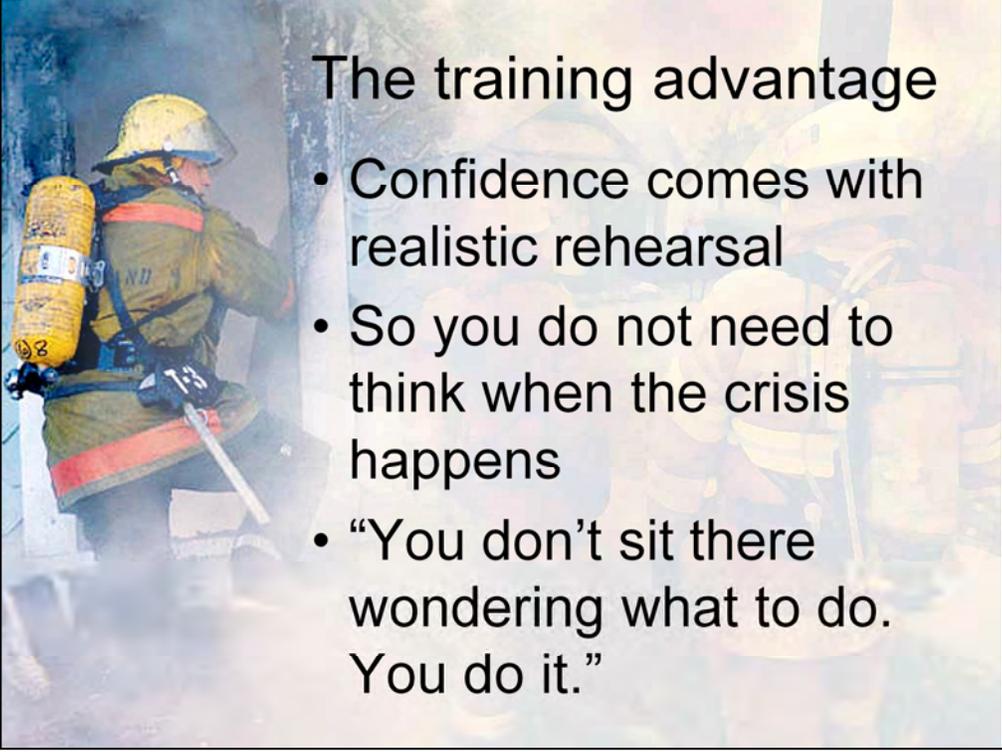
- Often the differences between survival and injury or death is the result of people’s beliefs.



People routinely
over-estimate
how well their
minds will
perform in a real
crisis



Daily firefighters respond to fires and other life threatening incidents that, more often than not, could have been prevented had the individual causing the situation clearly understood the consequences of their unsafe act or the danger posed by the hazards encountered.



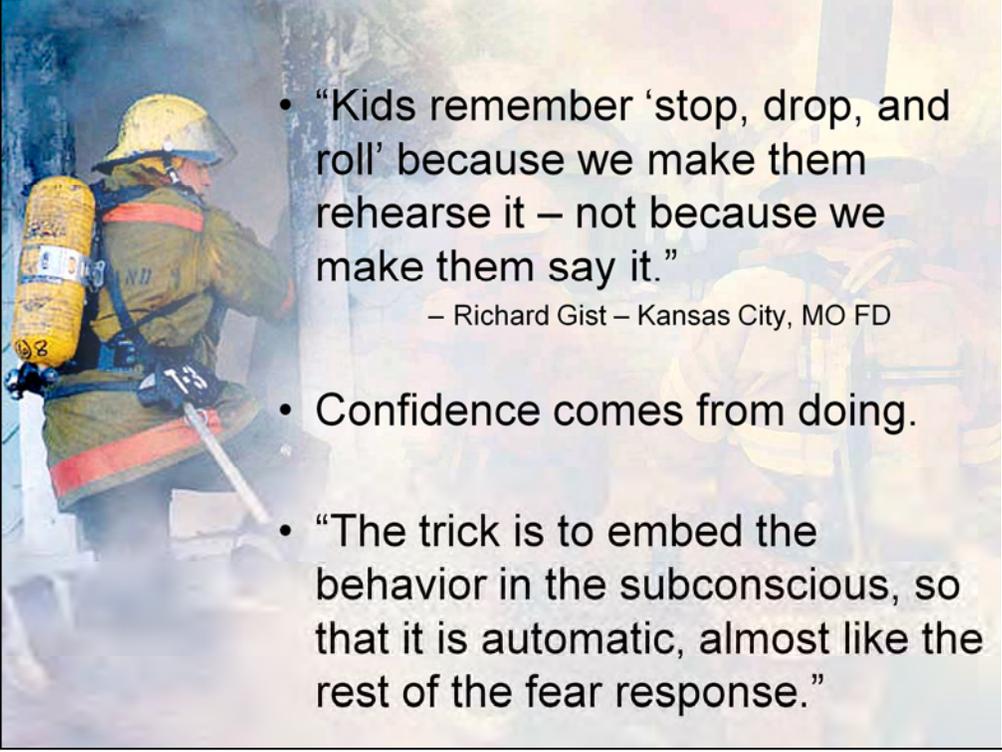
The training advantage

- Confidence comes with realistic rehearsal
- So you do not need to think when the crisis happens
- “You don’t sit there wondering what to do. You do it.”

“Freezing” is as common as fleeing in the repertoire of human disaster responses.

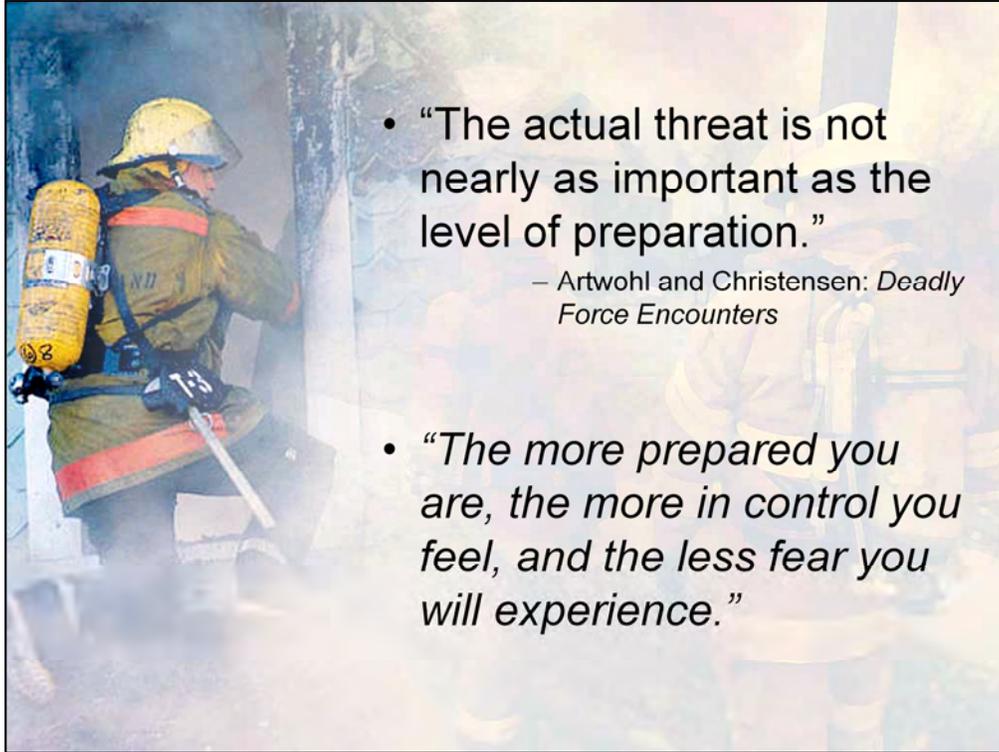
Again and again studies have shown that people perform better under stress if they *think* they can handle it.

If you have to stop and think it through, then you will not have time to survive.



- “Kids remember ‘stop, drop, and roll’ because we make them rehearse it – not because we make them say it.”
– Richard Gist – Kansas City, MO FD
- Confidence comes from doing.
- “The trick is to embed the behavior in the subconscious, so that it is automatic, almost like the rest of the fear response.”

“Skill is my ability to do something automatically, at the subconscious level. I don’t have to think about it. It is programmed. How do I get that? I do that by repetition, by practicing the right thing. The only way you learn it – on a response level – is to program it.” - Langford

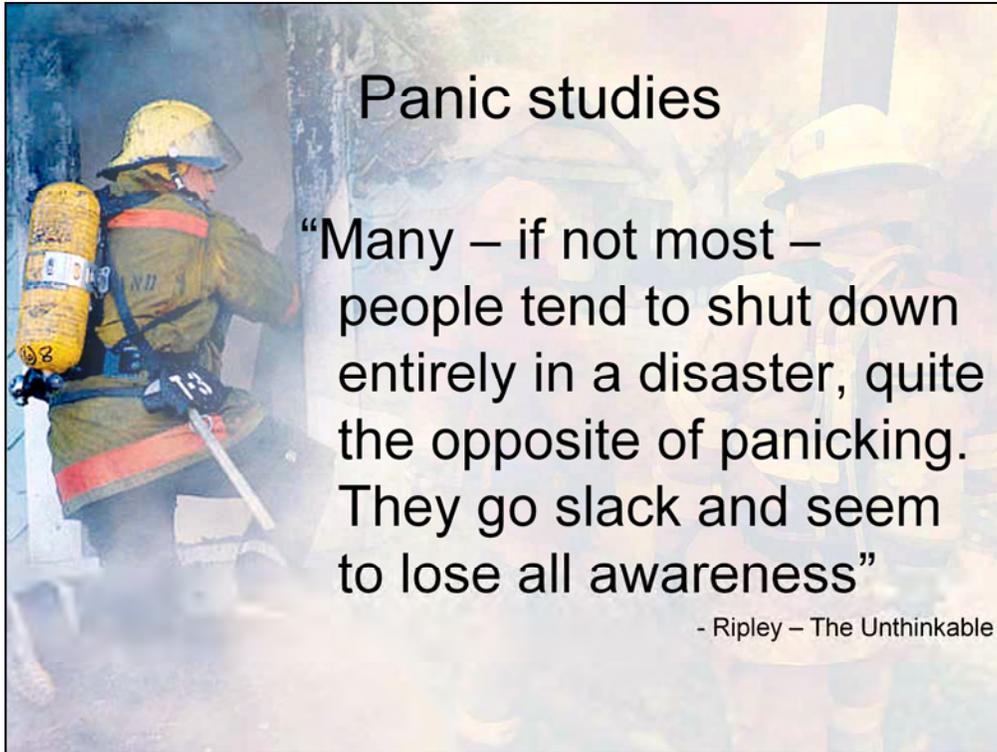


- “The actual threat is not nearly as important as the level of preparation.”

– Artwohl and Christensen: *Deadly Force Encounters*

- “*The more prepared you are, the more in control you feel, and the less fear you will experience.*”

The best way to negotiate stress is through repeated, realistic training. It's too late to learn the lessons in the midst of the crisis.

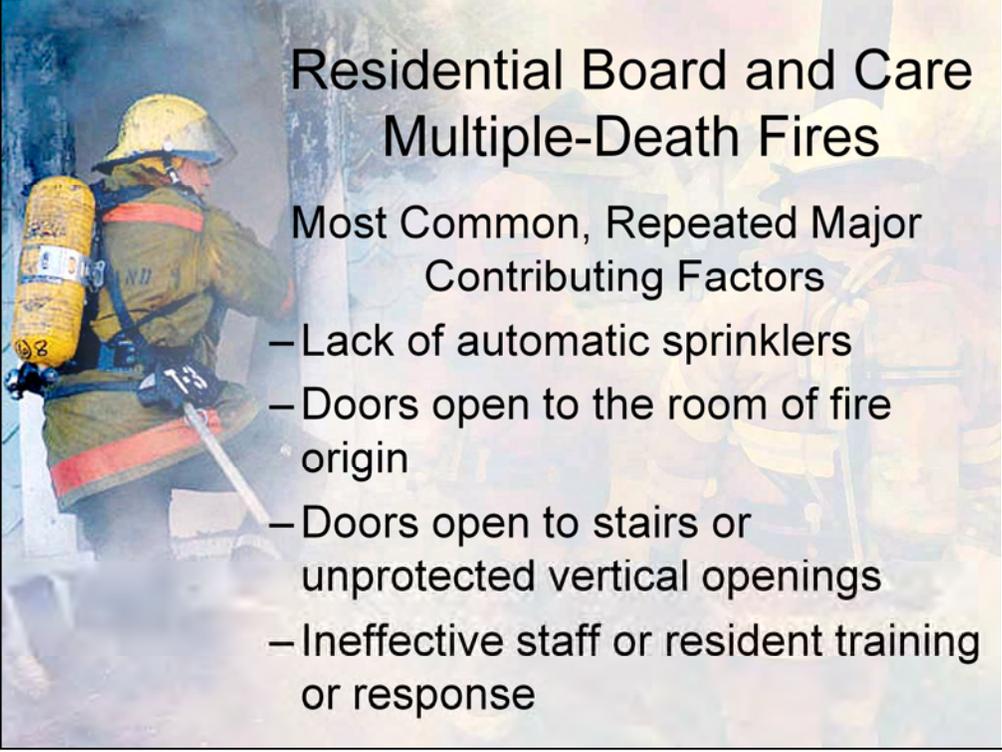


Panic studies

“Many – if not most – people tend to shut down entirely in a disaster, quite the opposite of panicking. They go slack and seem to lose all awareness”

- Ripley – *The Unthinkable*

“Actual human behavior in fires is somewhat different from the ‘panic’ scenario. What is regularly observed is a lethargic response. People are cool during fires, ignoring or delaying their response.” - Proulx – *Fire Protection Engineering*



Residential Board and Care Multiple-Death Fires

Most Common, Repeated Major
Contributing Factors

- Lack of automatic sprinklers
- Doors open to the room of fire origin
- Doors open to stairs or unprotected vertical openings
- Ineffective staff or resident training or response

Reference:

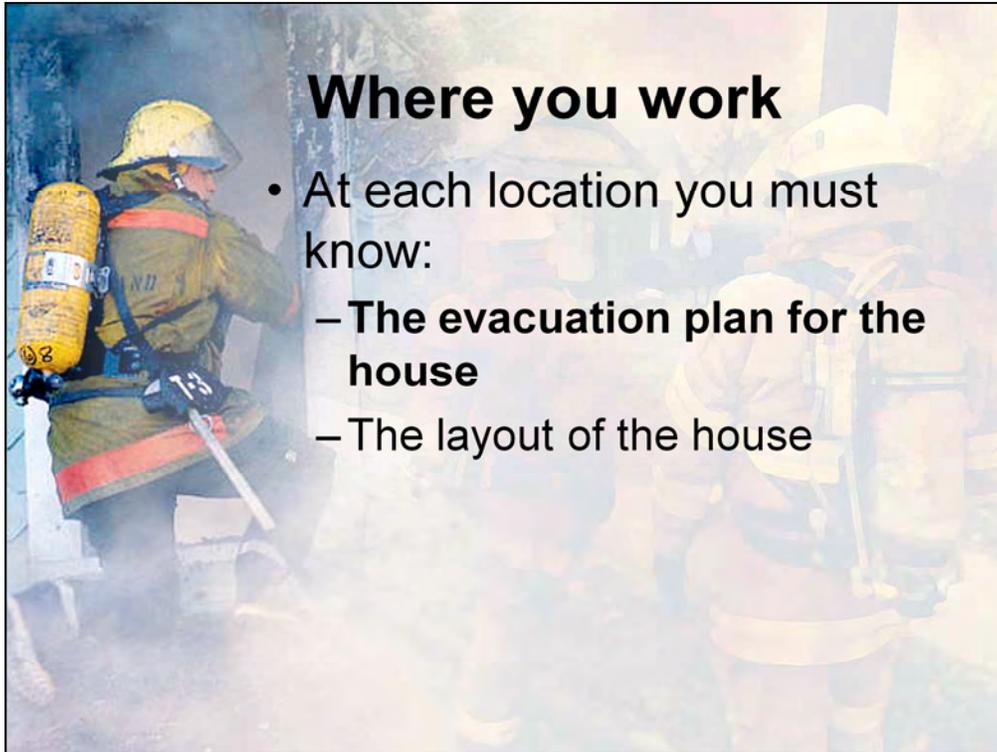
NFPA: Alert Bulletin – Norfolk VA Nursing Home Fire Results in 12 Fatalities (Number 89-3)

USFA: Technical Report Series – Twelve-Fatality Nursing Home Fire Norfolk, Virginia

NFPA: Alert Bulletin – Three Major Fires In Elderly Housing (Number 90-1)

NFPA: Fire Investigations – Nursing Home Fire Woburn, MA

USFA: Technical Report Series – Four-Fatality Fire in Residential Board and care Facility Bessemer, Alabama (USFA-TR-043)



Where you work

- At each location you must know:
 - **The evacuation plan for the house**
 - The layout of the house

-The layout of the house

In each work location you must be sure you can locate:

-The bedrooms

-The exits and egress routes, and which are closest to each point in the house

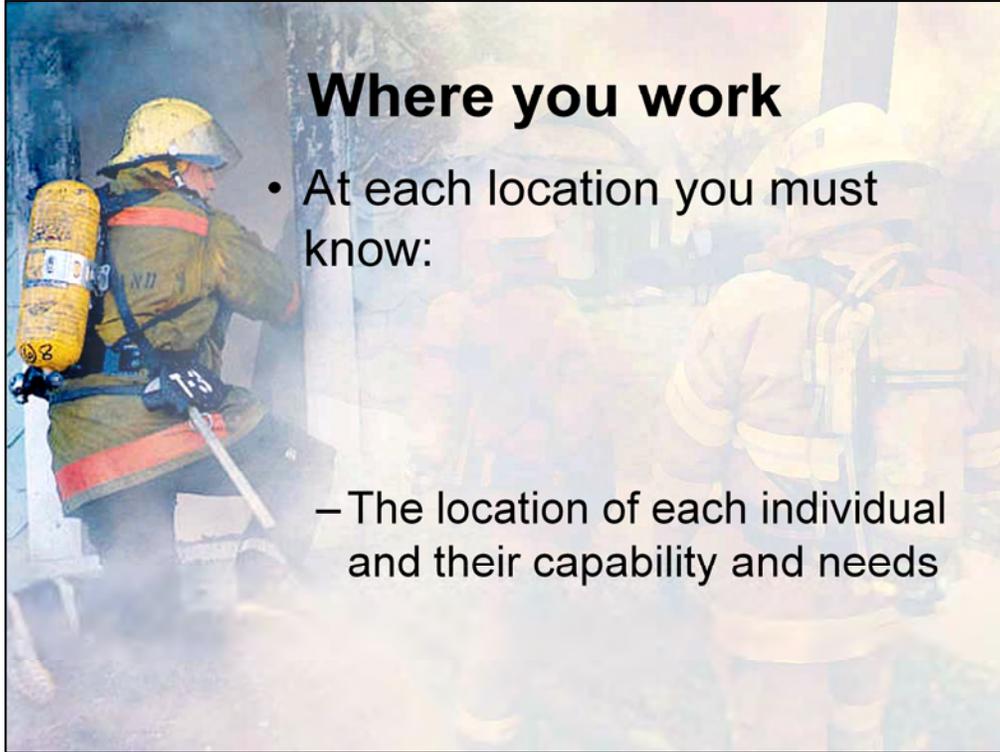
-Safe areas and areas of refuge (if they truly exist – remember that a safe area or area of refuge is specifically engineered with fire rated construction to serve that purpose.

-Where fire extinguishers are located – OPWDD policy is to not attempt to extinguish fire. Extinguishers are for the purpose of defense and clear an exit path only

-The location of fire alarm pull stations

-Where the telephone is

-Whether the fire alarm sounds only in the building or if it is connected to notify the fire department



Where you work

- At each location you must know:

- The location of each individual and their capability and needs

-Teach the importance of knowing exactly what each consumer will need to get to a place of safety.



Individual Capabilities

- Impairments may reduce the individual's chance of safety
 - Limited means of egress
 - Limited mobility
 - Newly disabled
 - Residence characteristics

-Limited means of egress – even under normal circumstances the consumer's movement may be difficult and time consuming. In a fire event, accommodations and devices used to aid mobility may actually become a risk. And, accommodations that may make normal activity possible may become unusable.

- Limited mobility – rapid growing fires may quickly overcome persons with diminished mobility unless proper devices, plans, and assistance are immediately available and the consumer knows how to use them.

- The newly disabled – not yet adapted to new concerns and accommodations

- Residence characteristics – construction, evacuation capability of entire residence impacts each consumer, staffing numbers and available assistance levels, fire department service and assistance.



LSC Evacuation Capability categories

- **Prompt** evacuation capability
- **Slow** evacuation capability
- **Impractical** evacuation capability

*
Key word: **RELIABLY**

Evacuation capability = “The ability of occupants, residents, and staff as a group either to evacuate a building or to relocate from the point of occupancy to a point of safety.

-Prompt: “The ability of a group to move reliably to a point of safety in a timely manner that is equivalent to the capacity of a household in the general population.”

-Slow: “The ability of a group to move reliably to a point of safety in a timely manner, but not as rapidly as members of a household in the general population.”

-Impractical: “The inability of a group to reliably move to a point of safety in a timely manner.”

A lot of span and degrees within each.

Key word - RELIABLY

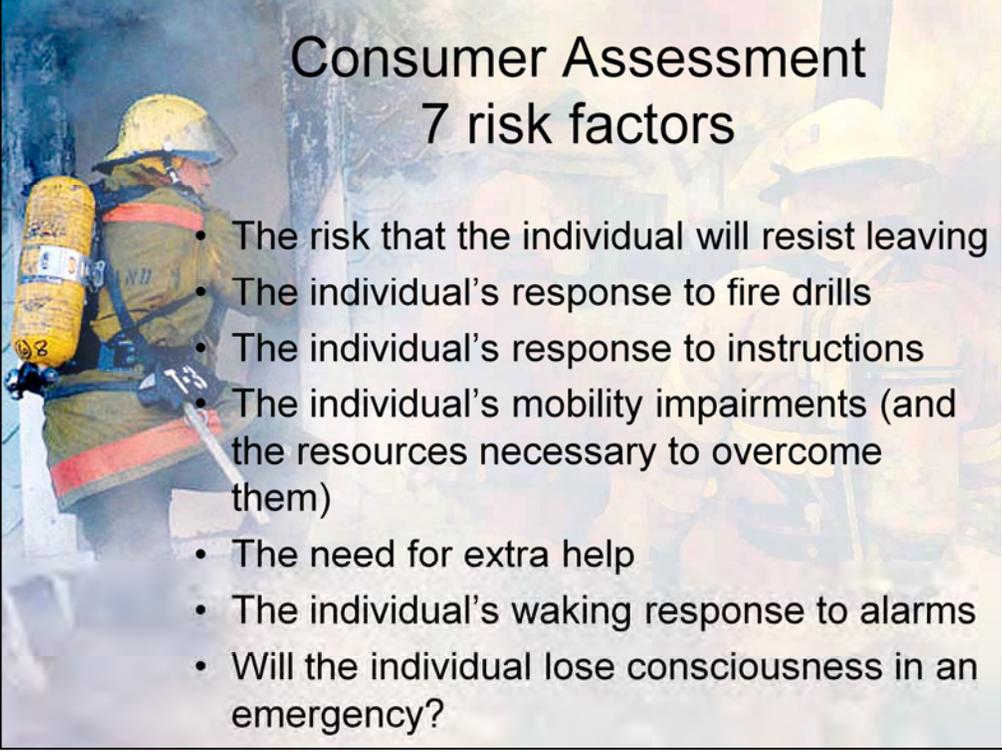


Consumer Assessment
7 risk factors

**Must be a
performance based
assessment**

Must be based on her/his
demonstrated ability to evacuate
a structure in an emergency

Emphasize that this is what evacuation drills are for. The drills must be as realistic as possible for reality in performance to be proven.

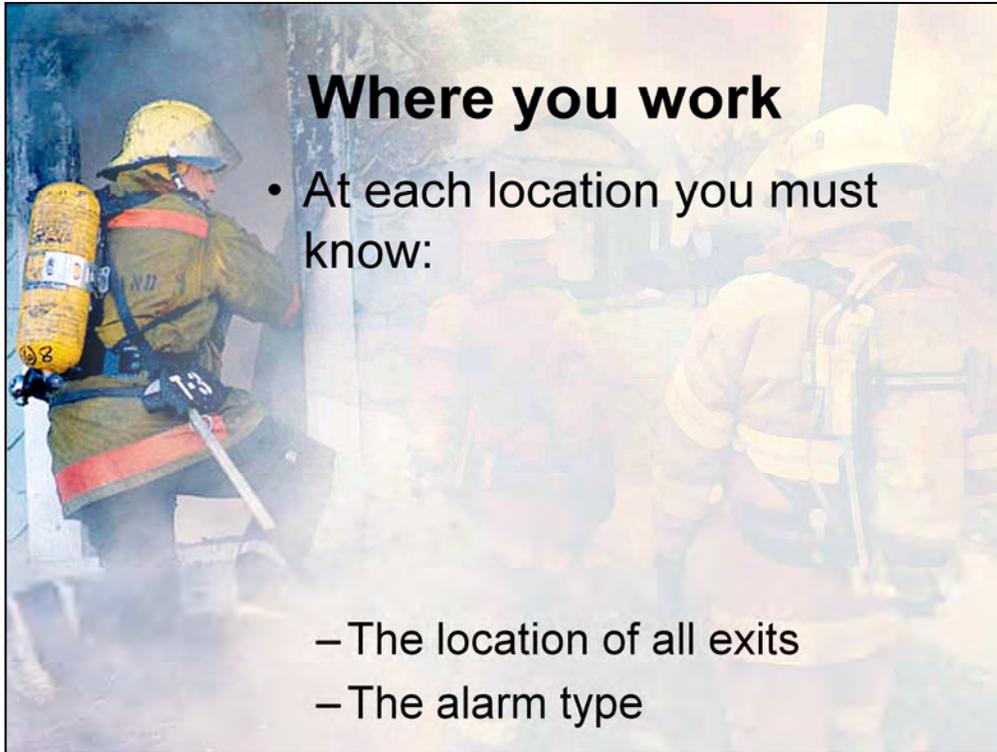


Consumer Assessment 7 risk factors

- The risk that the individual will resist leaving
- The individual's response to fire drills
- The individual's response to instructions
- The individual's mobility impairments (and the resources necessary to overcome them)
- The need for extra help
- The individual's waking response to alarms
- Will the individual lose consciousness in an emergency?

It is not the intent of this course to teach evaluation, determination, or recording of E-scores. The goal is to make attendees aware of the practical, hands-on implications in everyday work and evacuation planning and evacuation execution of the impairments evaluated. ***KNOW THE EVACUATION PLAN for the specific location you are working ... every time.***

- The risk that the individual will resist leaving – leaving with a stranger, childlike responses of hiding or re-entering, unwilling to leave pets or belongings, confusion
- The individual's response to fire drills - does the individual's escape plan work?
- The individual's response to instructions – language barriers, comprehension barriers, other communication barriers
- The individual's mobility impairments – is the individual capable of reasonably safe self-rescue from a burning building? Might he/she be able to assist others?
- The need for extra help – some may have an unrealistic view of their capabilities. This may be related to the actual egress or the period immediately following. For example: what resources might be needed outside to sustain the consumer (respirator, staff supervision, special equipment)
- The individual's waking response to alarms – will there be a difference between the day-time and night-time safety needs of the consumer?
- The probability that the individual will lose consciousness in an emergency – for example: does life support equipment need backup power and is it available outside the structure?



-The exits and egress routes, and which are closest to each point in the house

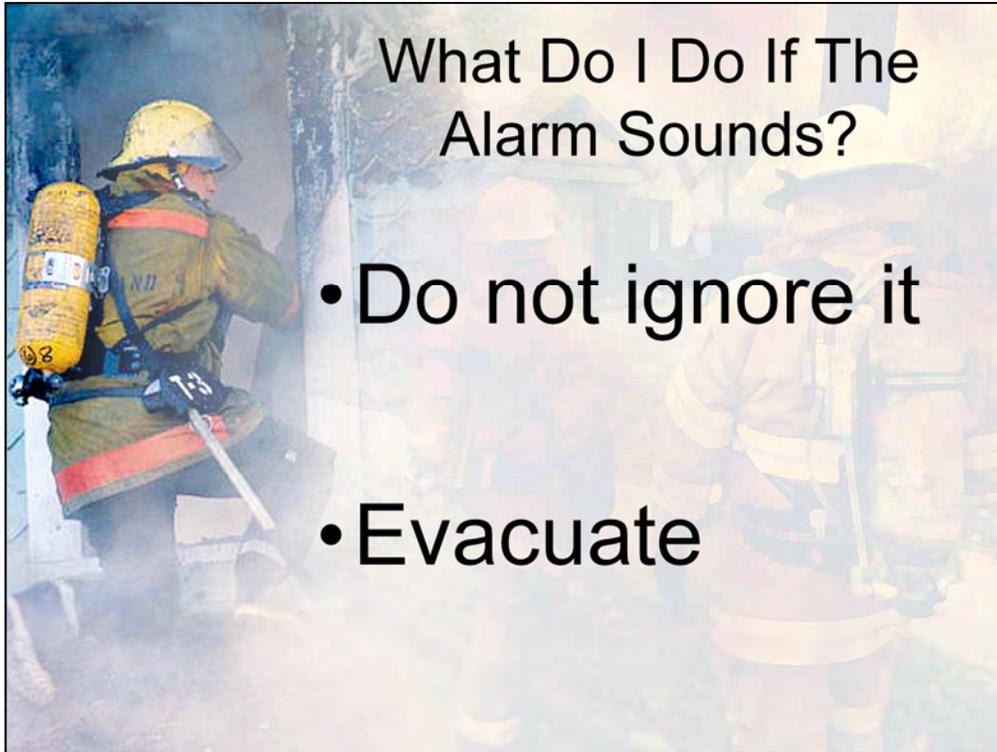
-Safe areas and areas of refuge (if they truly exist – remember that a safe area or area of refuge is specifically engineered with fire rated construction to serve that purpose.

-Where fire extinguishers are located – OPWDD policy is to not attempt to extinguish fire. Extinguishers are for the purpose of defense and clear an exit path only

-The location of fire alarm pull stations

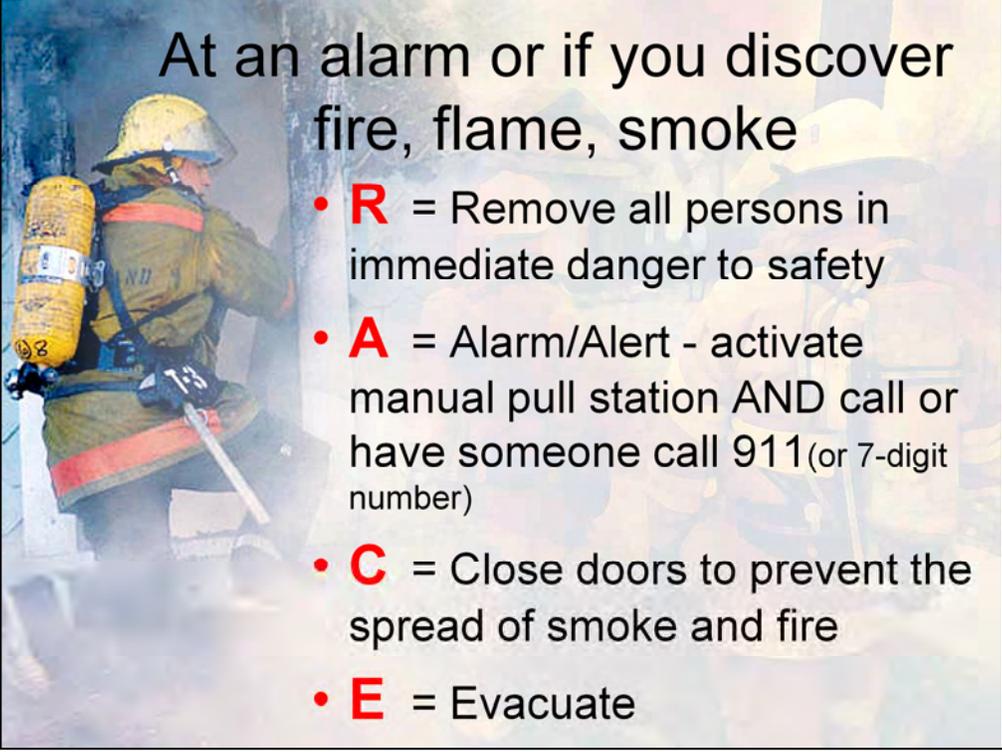
-Where the telephone is

-Whether the fire alarm sounds only in the building or if it is connected to notify the fire department



Recently a small IRA operated by a voluntary agency in Buffalo area experienced a fire that resulted in \$50,000+ in damages. The fire occurred in the bathroom above a ceiling but below the roof (crawl space). This IRA was a split level and the fire occurred above the second level. The point of ignition was the fan/heat device in the bathroom on that second level. The actual reason has not been determined.

This is an estimated timeline of what occurred that evening. At 7 pm a resident finished taking a shower and smelled smoke. He reported that to a staff member on duty. That staff person either ignored the information or checked the area and found nothing they believed wrong. They told the resident that it was probably dust. At about 8:45-9 pm, the alarm system activated and the staff could not find anything suspicious so, they alerted their alarm monitoring service that the fire department was not needed. It is unclear at this time whether the fire department had been dispatched and called off or if the report from the residence canceled the dispatch. Staff reset the alarm panel but the system activated again. This time the alarm service again called the residence and again inquired if the fire department was needed. The staff person happened to be outside of the residence smoking a cigarette and indicated that the fire department was not needed but, on looking up, saw smoke coming from the roof. They immediately told the monitoring station to send the fire department and then evacuated the residence. Everyone evacuated safely. The fire caused over \$50,000 damage to the house and in loss of personal property and keepsakes. The residents had to be temporarily re-located until the home could be repaired.



At an alarm or if you discover fire, flame, smoke

- **R** = Remove all persons in immediate danger to safety
- **A** = Alarm/Alert - activate manual pull station AND call or have someone call 911 (or 7-digit number)
- **C** = Close doors to prevent the spread of smoke and fire
- **E** = Evacuate

-R: this is the removal of persons in immediate, imminent harm to a place of greater safety. It may mean taking a person out of the room where the fire is occurring or just moving them away from the immediate area of flame or heat or smoke.

-A: it is vital that the alarm be sounded and the fire department on the way. Even if the alarm is sounded, at the earliest possible time the phone call should be made to confirm a true alarm and give a status update

-C: Close all door possible. Closing a door is a very effective way to reduce spread of flame and/or smoke. It many keep these out of a room or area or, maybe even more important, keep them from a corridor or other necessary path of egress.

-E: The safest place for people when a building is on fire is out of it. Some will include a 'consider extinguishing' point here.

-The very strict parameters for deciding to extinguish will be discussed in the extinguisher unit.

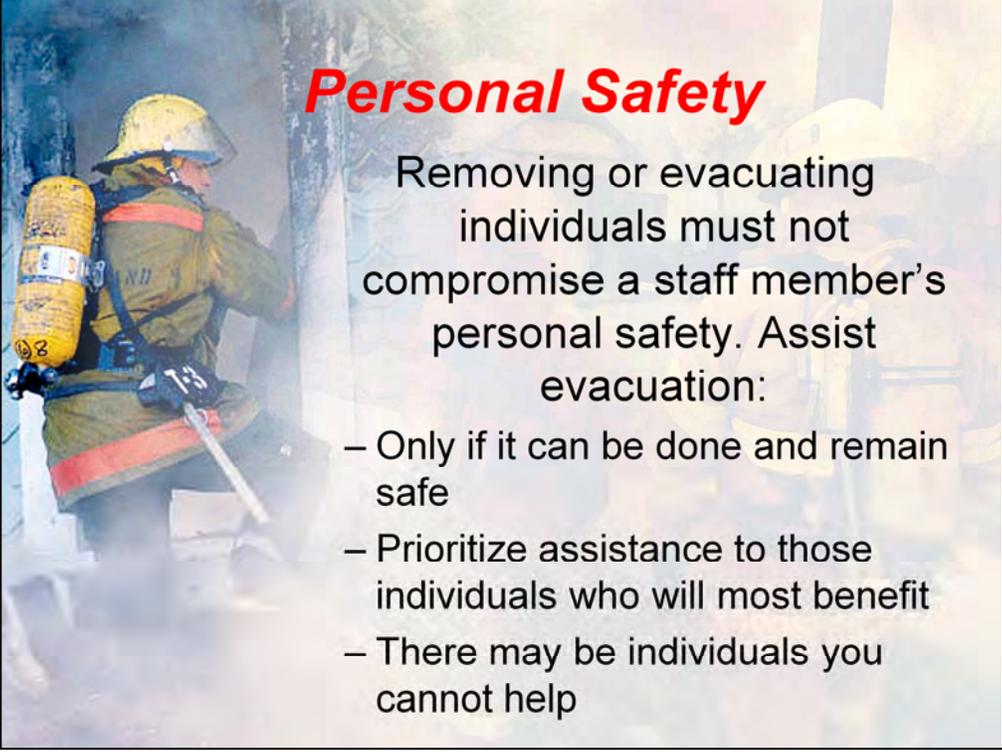
(Instructor) At this point and/or in the extinguisher unit you can expect questions and scenarios that challenge the order of the RACE components. One such might be a small stovetop fire where an extinguisher is in the kitchen. The contention will be that putting it out will eliminate the need for most of the rest and be the choice that provides the greatest safety.

OPWDD's stated policy is to evacuate not extinguish.

It should be noted that the elements of RACE may occur out of order or simultaneously depending on fire conditions, personal safety, available staff, and consumer needs.



-R: this is the removal of persons in immediate, imminent harm to a place of greater safety. It may mean taking a person out of the room where the fire is occurring or just moving them away from the immediate area of flame or heat or smoke. Staff must consider their own safety in deciding to take this action.



Personal Safety

Removing or evacuating individuals must not compromise a staff member's personal safety. Assist evacuation:

- Only if it can be done and remain safe
- Prioritize assistance to those individuals who will most benefit
- There may be individuals you cannot help

It is the professional duty and responsibility of Direct Support Staff to:

-Assist evacuation of individuals as long as they can do so and remain safe themselves.

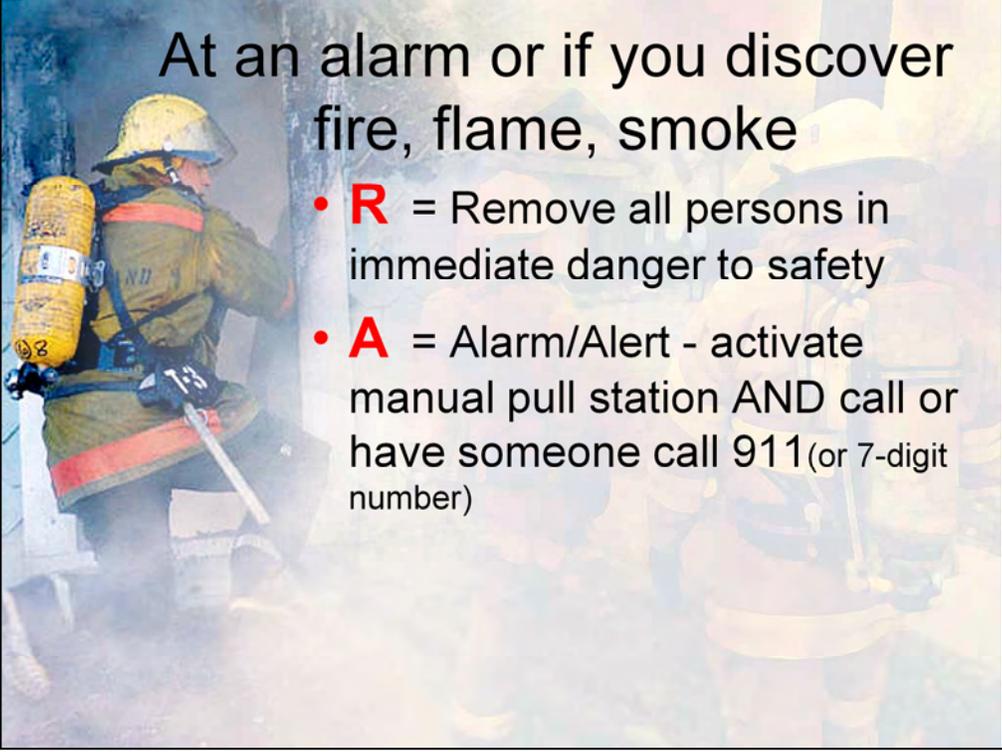
-Staff must prioritize their assistance to those individuals who will benefit most from their help.

-Staff must be competent in moving difficult individuals

In all actions of removing an individual from imminent danger or evacuating, staff members must give their personal safety the highest priority. If a staff member is harmed he/she:

-Eliminates any value they may provide to the benefit of the individuals

-Becomes a victim needing aid, requiring additional resources or removing resources from assistance to individuals

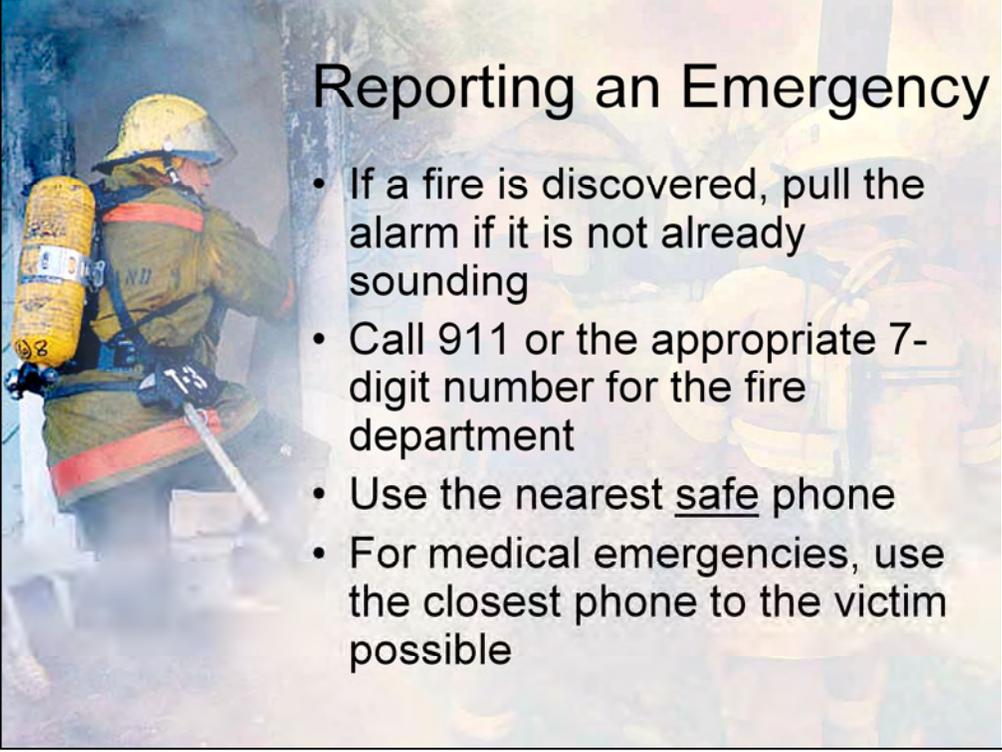


At an alarm or if you discover fire, flame, smoke

- **R** = Remove all persons in immediate danger to safety
- **A** = Alarm/Alert - activate manual pull station AND call or have someone call 911 (or 7-digit number)

-R: it is vital that the alarm be sounded and the fire department on the way. Even if the alarm is sounded, at the earliest possible time the phone call should be made to confirm a true alarm and give a status update. From a SAFE phone

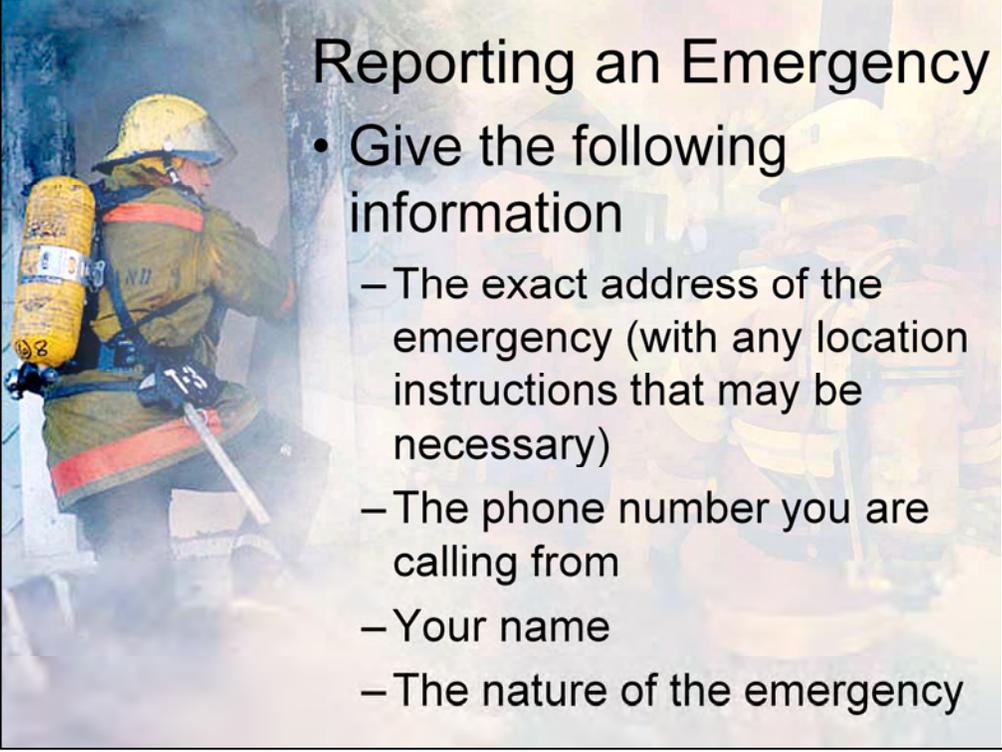
-A is, first, to alarm the building. Activating the building alarm, shouting fire to alert occupants, etc. The call to report must be made by a person in a safe location and, if someone not involved in the evacuation is not available, after all occupants are in an area of safety.



Reporting an Emergency

- If a fire is discovered, pull the alarm if it is not already sounding
- Call 911 or the appropriate 7-digit number for the fire department
- Use the nearest safe phone
- For medical emergencies, use the closest phone to the victim possible

- Even if the alarm is sounding, as soon as possible the phone call should also be made to confirm a true alarm and give a status report
- Use the closest phone to the victim possible when reporting an medical emergency. The call taker may be trained to give instructions to aid the victim until the ambulance arrives.



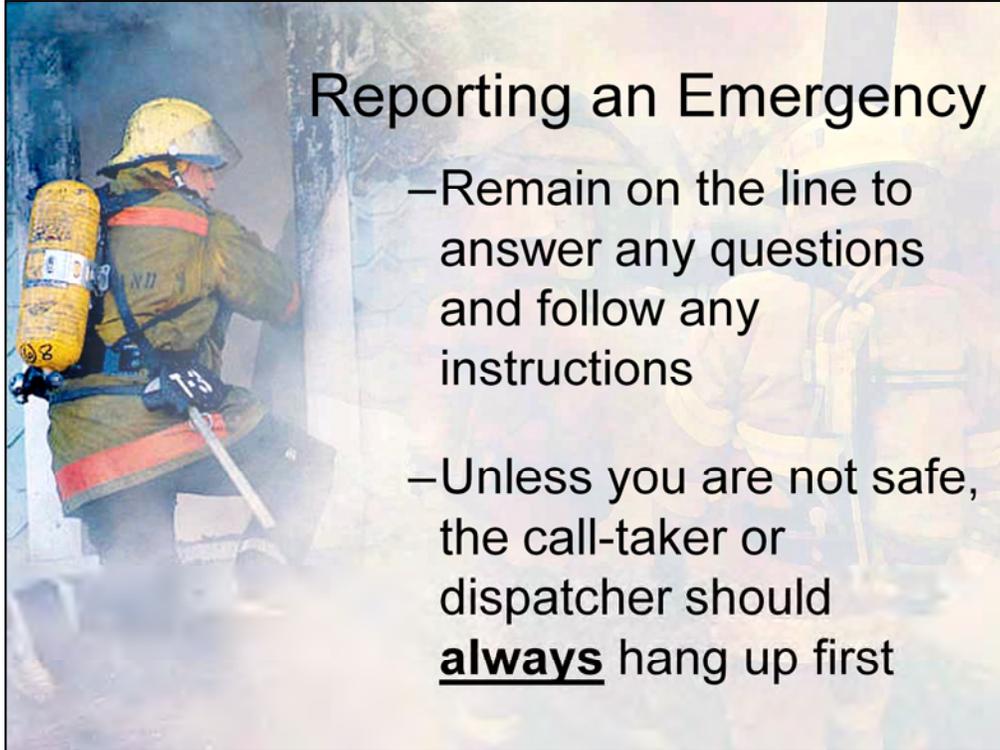
Reporting an Emergency

- Give the following information
 - The exact address of the emergency (with any location instructions that may be necessary)
 - The phone number you are calling from
 - Your name
 - The nature of the emergency

-Often, 911 ID's do not give specific buildings in a complex, floor identification, which entrance is closest or best, etc.

-The phone number is for the purpose of calling back by the dispatcher if further information is needed

-Your name is so they can get back to the same person who originally made the call. That saves time by avoiding starting over with someone else



Reporting an Emergency

- Remain on the line to answer any questions and follow any instructions
- Unless you are not safe, the call-taker or dispatcher should **always** hang up first



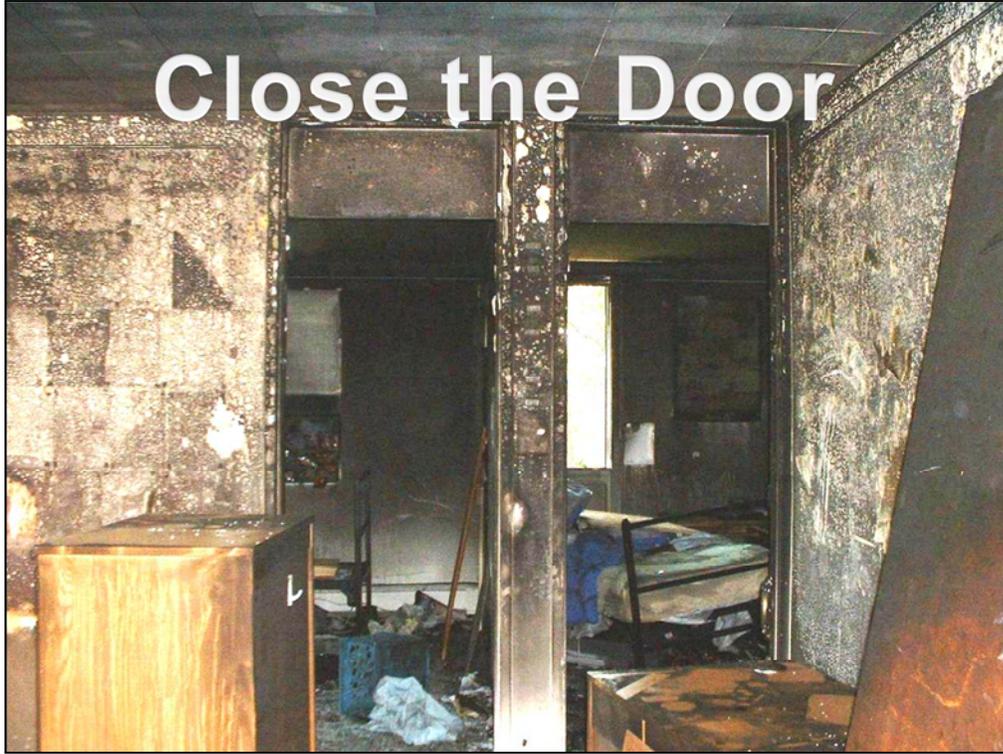
At an alarm or if you discover fire, flame, smoke

- **R** = Remove all persons in immediate danger to safety
- **A** = Alarm/Alert - activate manual pull station AND call or have someone call 911 (or 7-digit number)
- **C** = Close doors to prevent the spread of smoke and fire

-C: Close all doors possible. Closing a door is a very effective way to reduce spread of flame and/or smoke. It may keep these out of a room or area or, maybe even more important, keep them from a corridor or other necessary path of egress. (Confinement to slow spread of fire and smoke. May be accomplished by a variety of construction elements that provide compartments – fire barriers, smoke barriers, fire doors, smoke dampers, etc.)

-In daily business, never prop open any door. Always allow doors that have self-closers to shut. If a door does not fully close and latch, report it for repair

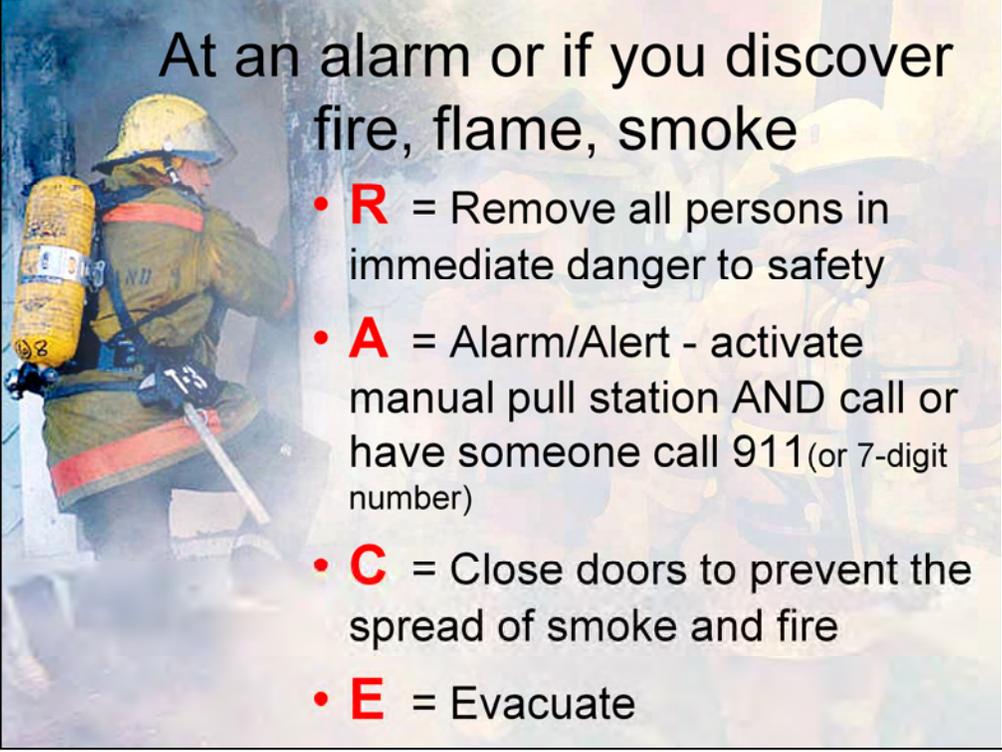
Close the Door











**At an alarm or if you discover
fire, flame, smoke**

- **R** = Remove all persons in immediate danger to safety
- **A** = Alarm/Alert - activate manual pull station AND call or have someone call 911 (or 7-digit number)
- **C** = Close doors to prevent the spread of smoke and fire
- **E** = Evacuate

-R: this is the removal of persons in immediate, imminent harm to a place of greater safety. It may mean taking a person out of the room where the fire is occurring or just moving them away from the immediate area of flame or heat or smoke.

-A: it is vital that the alarm be sounded and the fire department on the way. Even if the alarm is sounded, at the earliest possible time the phone call should be made to confirm a true alarm and give a status update

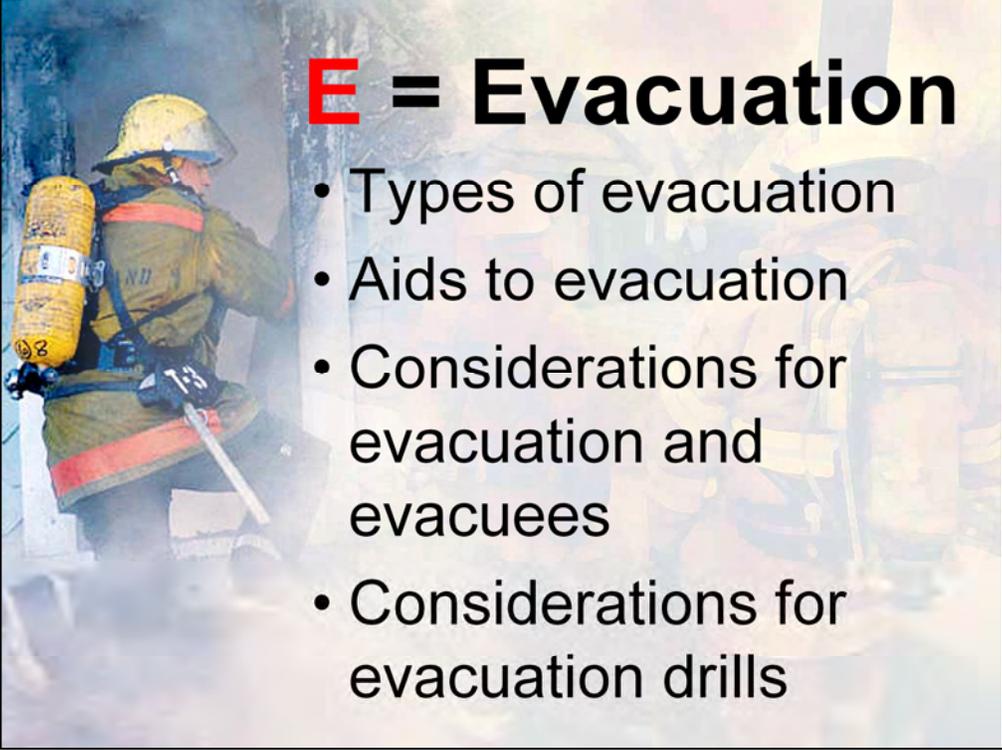
-C: Close all door possible. Closing a door is a very effective way to reduce spread of flame and/or smoke. It many keep these out of a room or area or, maybe even more important, keep them from a corridor or other necessary path of egress.

-E: The safest place for people when a building is on fire is out of it. Some include a 'consider extinguishing' point here. OPWDD's stated policy is evacuate not extinguish.

-The very strict parameters for deciding to extinguish will be discussed in the extinguisher unit.

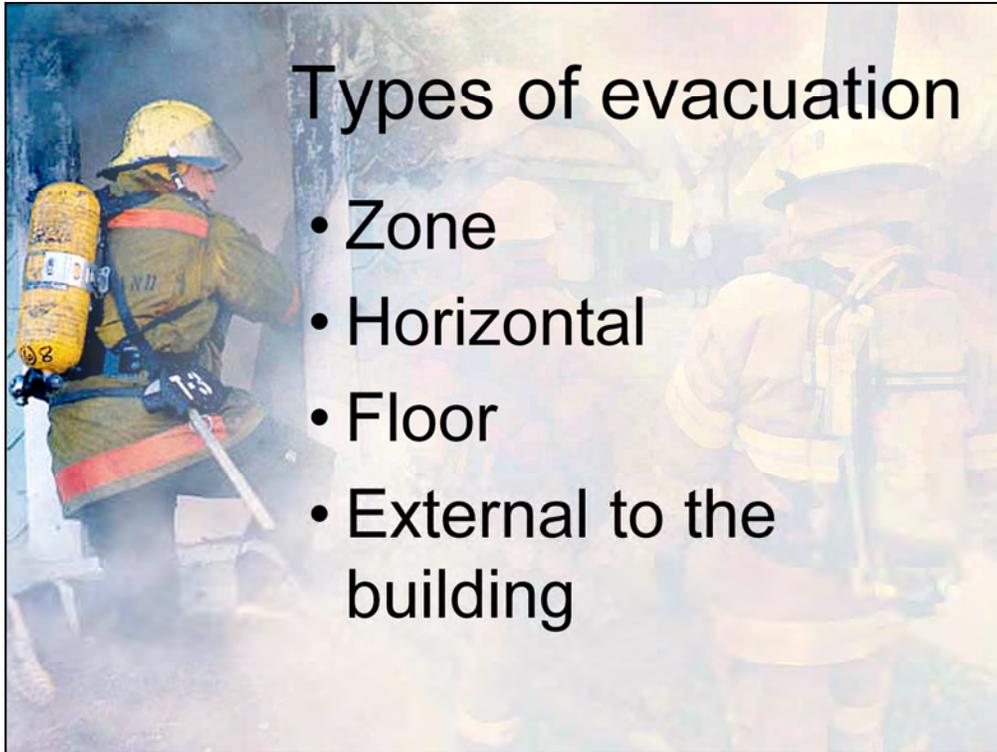
-(Instructor) At this point and/or in the extinguisher unit you can expect questions and scenarios that challenge the order of the RACE components. One such might be a small stovetop fire where an extinguisher is in the kitchen. The contention will be that putting it out will eliminate the need for most of the rest and be the choice that provides the greatest safety.

You can also expect questions about who decides or how the decision is made to extinguish or leave. Discussions with OPWDD HR, staff development, and quality personnel have indicated a potential fear on the part of staff members to make the choice, not knowing what their liability or accountability may be if they make the wrong one. Discussions about trying to definitively state when to and when not to have shown it likely impossible to remove a measure of staff judgment from many points in actually executing what needs to be done in a specific fire emergency. The nature of the event and the quantity of variables does not allow definition of an always right choice in every instance. These issues will, of necessity, be policy considerations for the agency. OPWDD's stated policy is evacuate not extinguish.



E = Evacuation

- Types of evacuation
- Aids to evacuation
- Considerations for evacuation and evacuees
- Considerations for evacuation drills



-Zone evacuation: if buildings are constructed and maintained with provision for fire areas, moving individuals to another zone in the building may occur.

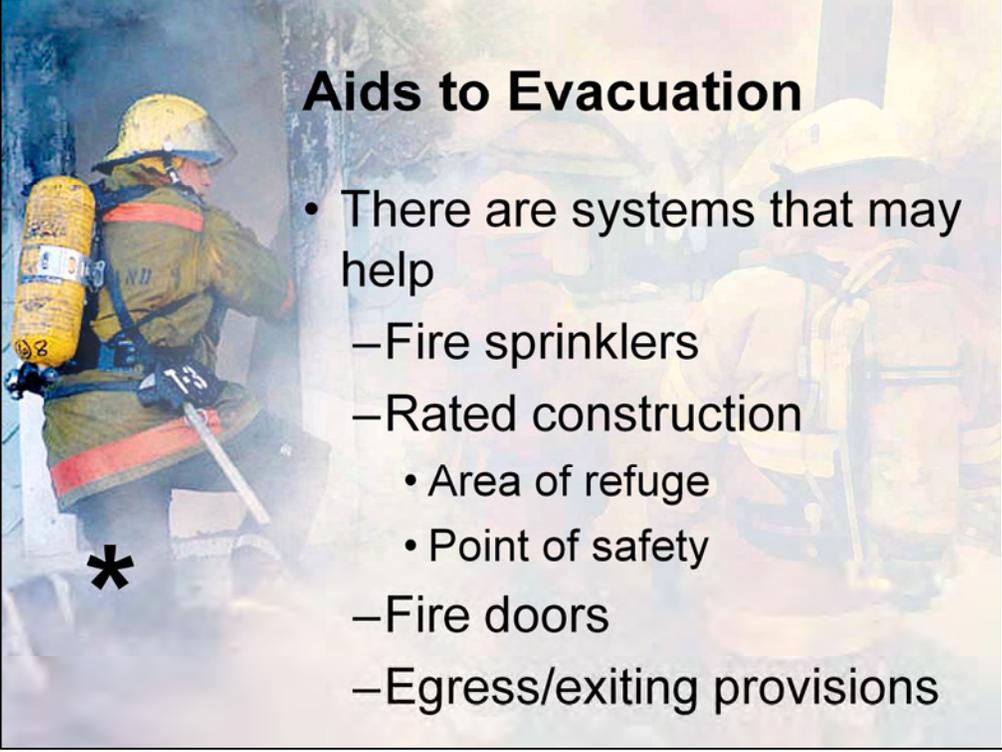
-Horizontal: if buildings are constructed and maintained with areas of refuge or places of safety, individual's may be moved into such areas. These must absolutely be designed for this purpose, maintained so that intended fire protection is actually provided, used during drills, and known to the fire department

-Give special emphasis to what a point-of-safety and area-of-refuge truly is (next slide)

-Floor: High-rise buildings may provide for movement to another floor as the area of safety. As in all internal evacuation strategies, the building must be designed, constructed, and maintained to provide the intended fire safety. In addition, some high-rise evacuation plans may have partial or full evacuation based on the building construction and fire safety provisions.

-External: movement of individuals completely outside of a building and to a designated assembly point

--- Fire sprinklers may change options for what type of evacuation are available



Aids to Evacuation

- There are systems that may help
 - Fire sprinklers
 - Rated construction
 - Area of refuge
 - Point of safety
 - Fire doors
 - Egress/exiting provisions

“Group Home Operators Arrested for fatal Fire” by David Boyles; June 10, 2010; The Guardian Blog; Published by Attorney: Solomon & Relihan Law Firm – To New Jersey group home operators were arrested due to a fatal fire that killed one of their residents last August. After an extensive investigation, police and fire officials determined that the group home did not have proper safety measures in place to prevent the fire.

James and Donna Beeman, operators of the Bright Horizons group home, were arrested for causing the death of 23-year old Frank Klekner last August 5. They were each charged with “causing death by failing to comply with a law intended to protect public health and safety. This is a second degree crime, with a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

After an extensive investigation, it was determined that the Bright Horizons facility was only licensed for six residents, there were at least 11 people living there at the time.

Spend a few minutes describing each of these and explaining how each provides a measure of protection or may provide a little more time to escape

Many may falsely believe they have areas of refuge in their homes. Emphasize what these are and are not.

- Area of Refuge

1. An story in a building where the building is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system and has not less than two accessible rooms or spaces separated from each other by smoke-resisting partitions (or)
2. A space located in a path of travel leading to a public way that is protected from the effects of fire, either by means of separation from other spaces in the same building or by virtue of location, thereby permitting a delay in egress travel from any level.

-Point of Safety –

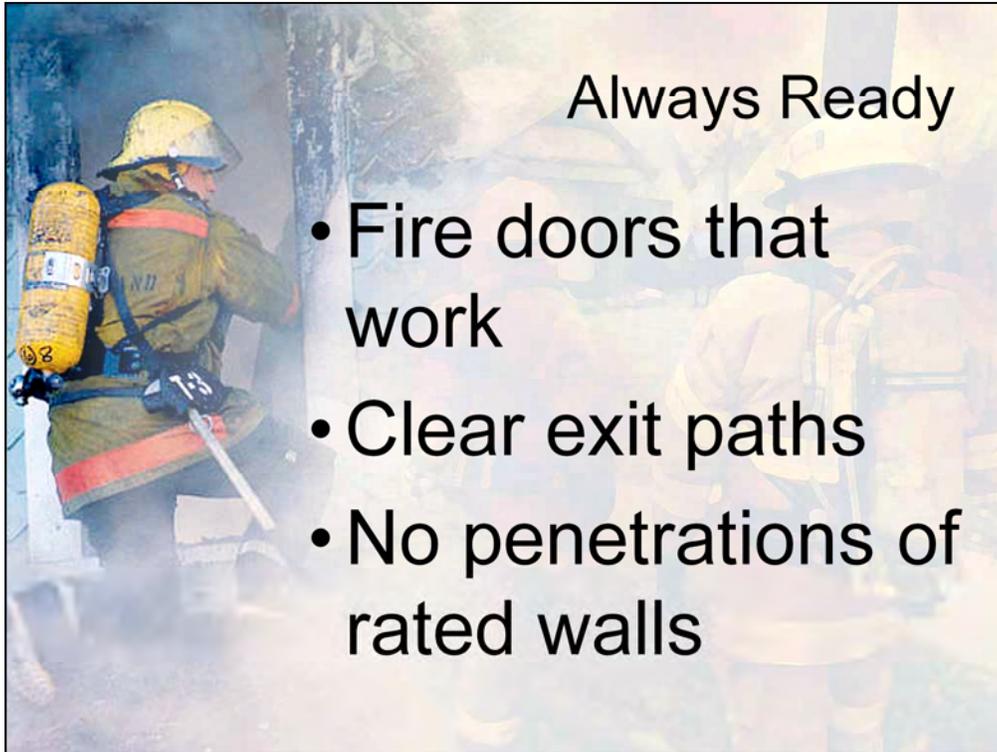
- **Make clear the strict requirements of an “area of refuge” and how that differs from a “point of safety.”**

- Code text:

Point of Safety

- a) Is exterior to the building
- b) Is within a sprinklered building of any type construction protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system and that is either (1) within an exit enclosure meeting the requirements of this *Code*, or (2) within another portion of the building that is separated by smoke barriers in accordance with 8.5, with not less than a ½ hour fire resistance rating, and that portion of the building has access to a means of escape or exit that conforms to this *Code* and does not necessitate return to the area of fire involvement (or)
- c) Is within a building of Type I, Type II (222), Type II (111), Type III (211), Type IV, or Type V (111) construction (see 8.2.1.2) and is either (1) within an exit enclosure meeting the requirements of the *Code*, or (2) within another portion of the building that is separated by smoke barriers in accordance with Section 8.5, with not less than a ½ hour rating, and that portion of the building has access to a means of escape or exit that conforms to the requirements of this *Code* and does not necessitate return to the area of fire involvement.

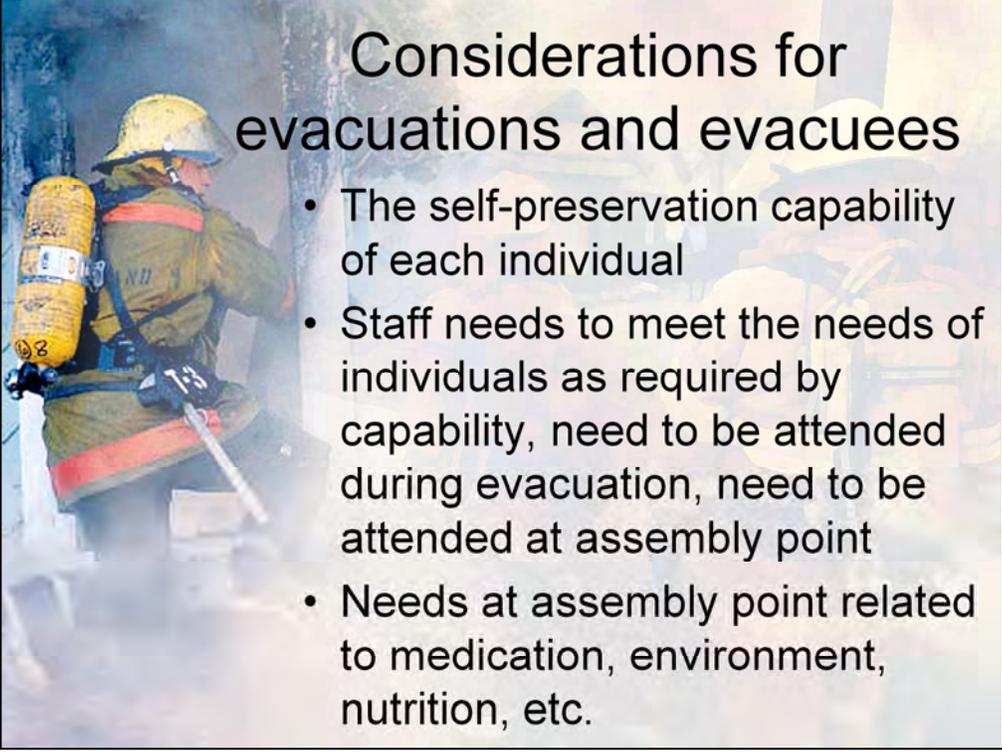
½ hour rating doesn't equate to ½ hour to evacuate



Latching and sealing of fire doors. Keeping them closed, even during routine business ... not chocked open, etc.

Clear of any obstacles. Full width of the exit door. Aisles and paths of travel. Discuss furniture and equipment placement and the need to consider exiting in those decisions. Additions, modifications, stuff that compromises egress size

These are things that all staff must monitor all of the time



Considerations for evacuations and evacuees

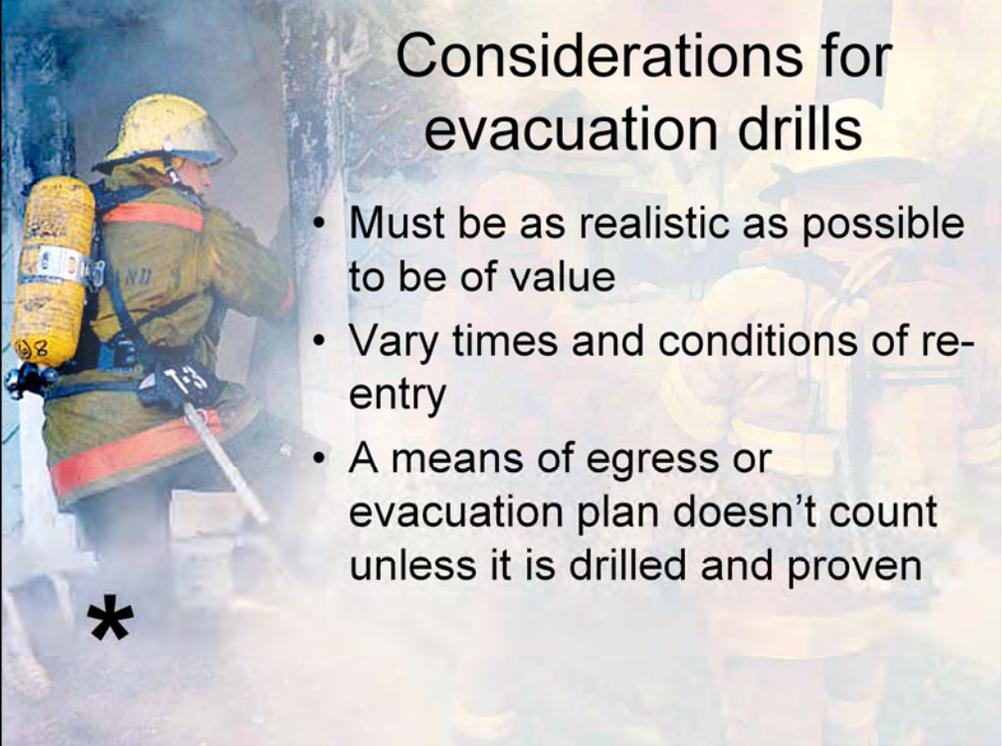
- The self-preservation capability of each individual
- Staff needs to meet the needs of individuals as required by capability, need to be attended during evacuation, need to be attended at assembly point
- Needs at assembly point related to medication, environment, nutrition, etc.

-What will it take by way of staff and equipment and time to evacuate each individual?

-What will it take to keep each individual at the assembly point and reasonably calm?

-What will it take to maintain each individual at the assembly point over a period of time? ... or where will they go if re-entry is not possible. What provision must be made to care for them over extended periods?

Any of these things may change on a daily or even hourly basis and change the needed response in an emergency. The events and conditions of the emergency may also mandate decisions about staff actions.



Considerations for evacuation drills

- Must be as realistic as possible to be of value
- Vary times and conditions of re-entry
- A means of egress or evacuation plan doesn't count unless it is drilled and proven

Lack of drills, ignored instructions cited in fatal fire – Kieran Nicholon; The Denver Post; 06-03-10

The assisted living high-rise where a 79-year old woman died in a fire has been cited for failing to conduct the fire drills required by code.

Firefighters had the fire contained to the woman's 10th floor apartment, and the other residents were instructed by the fire department to stay in their units until they could be assisted. Instead they opened their doors, letting more smoke flow into their rooms as they wandered into smoke-choked hallways, the fire department said. Firefighters then had to turn their attention from the fire and pass breathing masks to residents and immediately evacuate them. "What happened on the 10th floor, it could have been catastrophic," the fire department spokesman said. "People were out in the hallways; they left their doors open." On Tuesday, firefighters determined managers haven't been conducting fire drills.

-Realistic fire location and proper exiting and entry related to it must occur. We perform as we practice. If we don't do it right in a drill, it will never happen correctly in a real event. The goal of drills is to make proper survival behavior an automatic response. All aspects of the evacuation and survival plan must be exercised.

-Use different fire locations, different locations of individuals, blocked exits, and other variables that may realistically occur to allow exercising alternative actions

-If re-entry always occurs in a few minutes through the same entry point to the same "normal" conditions inside, individuals will form habits which could prove harmful or fatal. During a true emergency, they may perform those embedded behaviors, returning into a burning building.



-Consistent: The message must always be the same, the foundational concepts and procedures always the same ... there can be no conflicting information or behavior

-Easily understood

-Specific: well-defined actions, expectations, and information specific to emergency behavior

-Frequently repeated

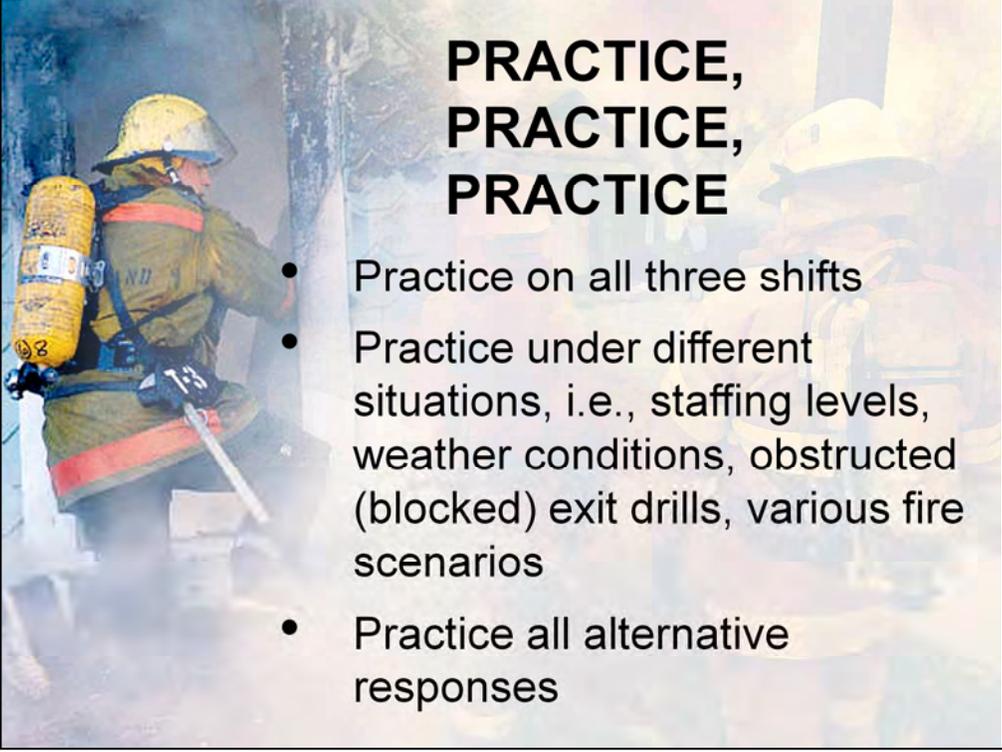
-Personal: Anything that adds to buy-in by participants or makes them believe they have a personal stake in the training or its purpose increases the value of the training

-Accurate:

-Targeted: Specific training elements for precise audiences



Every time the alarm sounds it is a real fire until someone with the qualification to determine otherwise says it's not

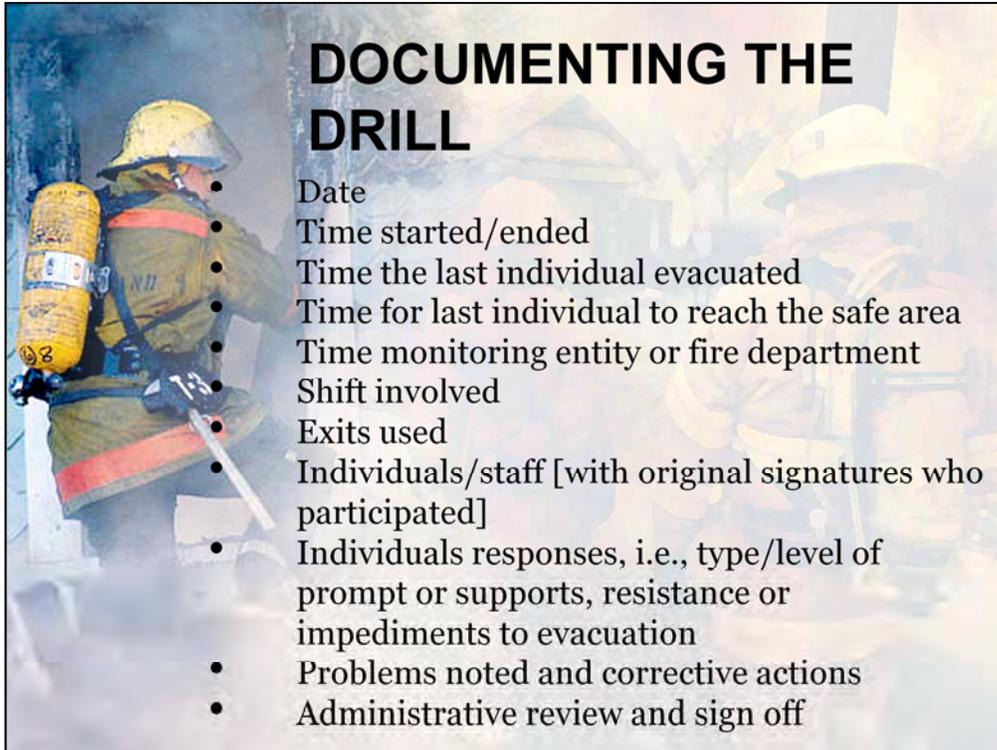


PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

- Practice on all three shifts
- Practice under different situations, i.e., staffing levels, weather conditions, obstructed (blocked) exit drills, various fire scenarios
- Practice all alternative responses

-Realistic fire location and proper exiting and entry related to it must occur. We perform as we practice. If we don't do it right in a drill, it will never happen correctly in a real event. The goal of drills is to make proper survival behavior an automatic response. All aspects of the evacuation and survival plan must be exercised.

-Use different fire locations, different locations of individuals, blocked exits, and other variables that may realistically occur to allow exercising alternative actions

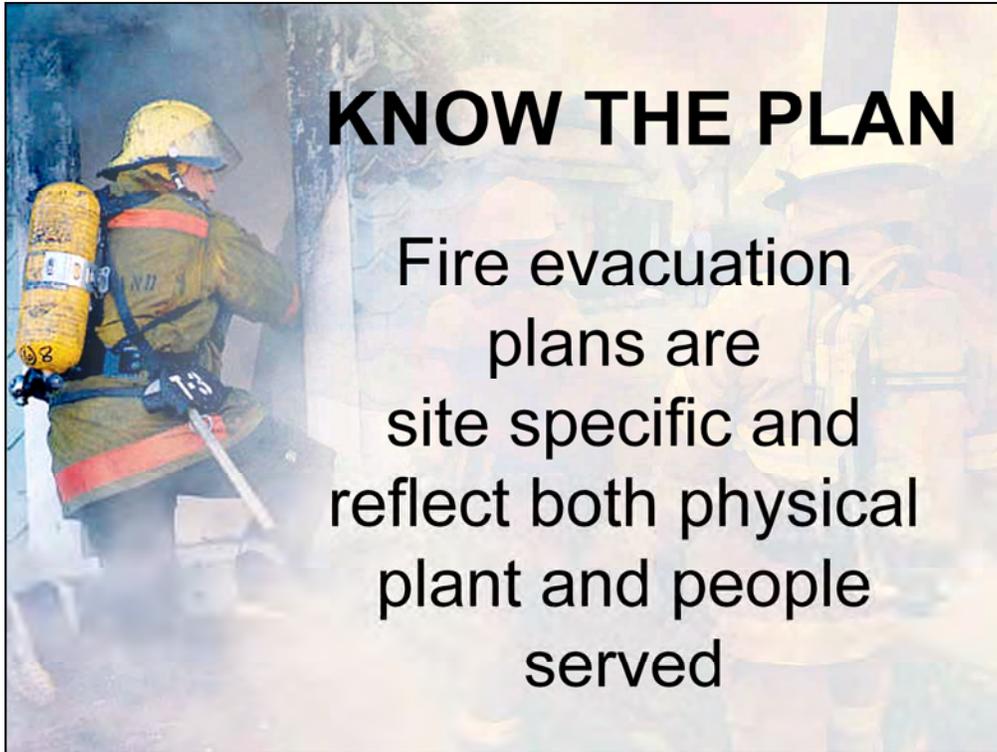


DOCUMENTING THE DRILL

- Date
- Time started/ended
- Time the last individual evacuated
- Time for last individual to reach the safe area
- Time monitoring entity or fire department
- Shift involved
- Exits used
- Individuals/staff [with original signatures who participated]
- Individuals responses, i.e., type/level of prompt or supports, resistance or impediments to evacuation
- Problems noted and corrective actions
- Administrative review and sign off



Emphasize the real dangers of falsifying drill reports. It is not only an employment violation, false information could cause deaths as proper procedures and actions are not identified and rehearsed



Use "Mill Creek Cause" article emphasizing the part-time staff member and her first time in the house.

UPDATED: JULY 1, 2011 5:40 AM EST

Cigarette blamed for fatal group home fire

BY TIM HAHN, Erie Times-News

tim.hahn@timesnews.com

Investigators believe an unextinguished cigarette set off a fire that destroyed a Millcreek Township group home and killed two of its residents in mid-April.

The investigation into the fire at 3710 Hampshire Road, which is owned by the [Barber National Institute](#), will not lead to criminal charges against the person responsible for causing it, police and prosecutors said Thursday. Officials have not said who they believe was smoking.

The Erie County District Attorney's Office reviewed reports by the Millcreek police and fire investigators before determining that it would not be prosecuting anyone in the case, District Attorney Jack Daneri said.

"We don't believe we can have a successful criminal prosecution in the matter," Daneri said.

Millcreek police were notified of the District Attorney's Office's decision Thursday, said Capt. Michael Tesore, who heads the department's criminal investigation division.

The fire, first reported shortly before 5 a.m. on April 16, heavily damaged the ranch-style dwelling that housed four men.

Two of the residents, 61-year-old Jeff DiLoreto and 64-year-old Guy Lombard, died



KNOW THE PLAN

Components of an acceptable fire plan

- Specific actions to be taken upon discovery of the fire, smelling smoke and/or hearing the alarm



**SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO BE
TAKEN UPON DISCOVERY**

This is the most
important aspect of
the fire plan

Staff must act decisively, promptly
and in the correct sequence to
assure maximum safety

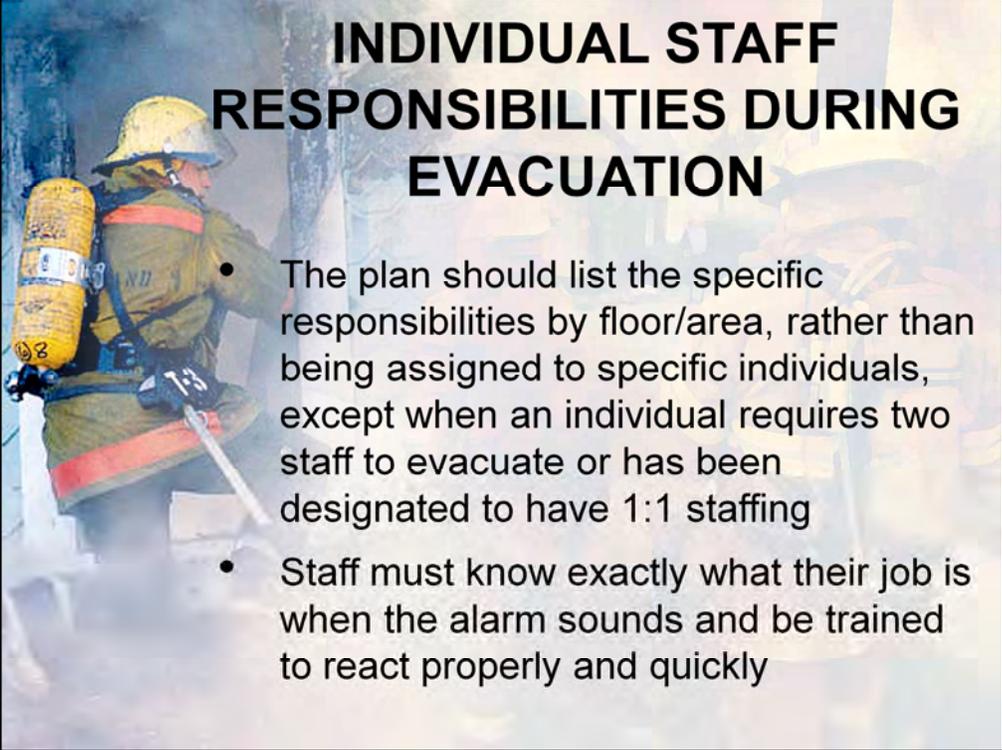


KNOW THE PLAN

Components of an acceptable fire plan

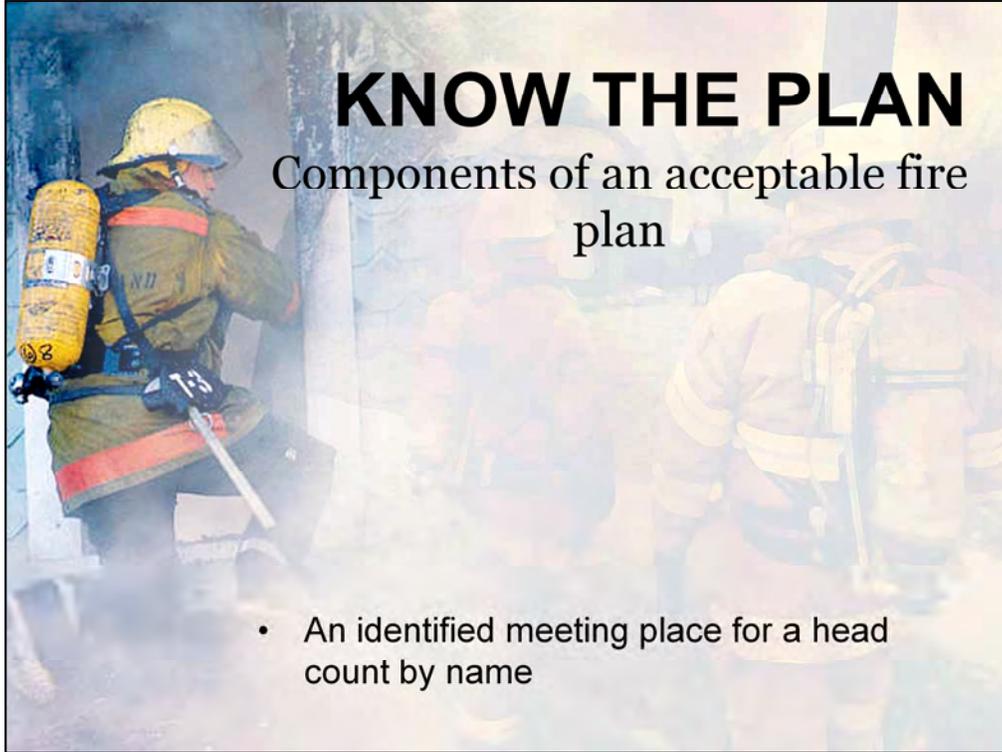
- How to safely check and enter rooms during evacuation
- How to evaluate evacuation priority
- Individual staff responsibilities during evacuation

Spend time on fairly detailed explanations of each of these points



INDIVIDUAL STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES DURING EVACUATION

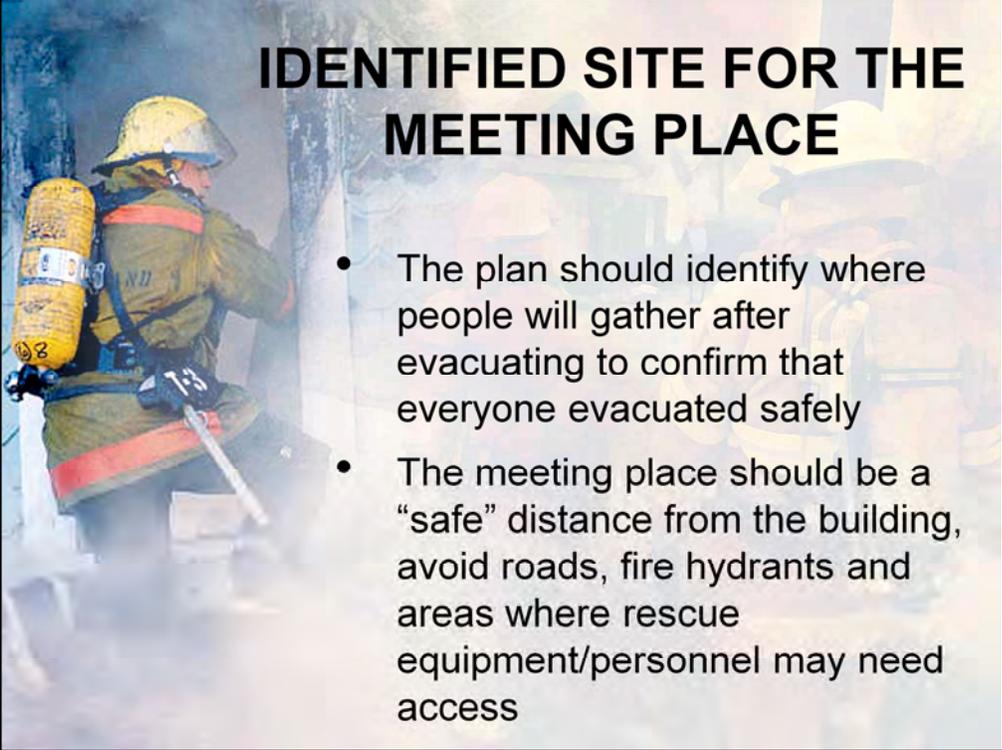
- The plan should list the specific responsibilities by floor/area, rather than being assigned to specific individuals, except when an individual requires two staff to evacuate or has been designated to have 1:1 staffing
- Staff must know exactly what their job is when the alarm sounds and be trained to react properly and quickly



KNOW THE PLAN

Components of an acceptable fire plan

- An identified meeting place for a head count by name



IDENTIFIED SITE FOR THE MEETING PLACE

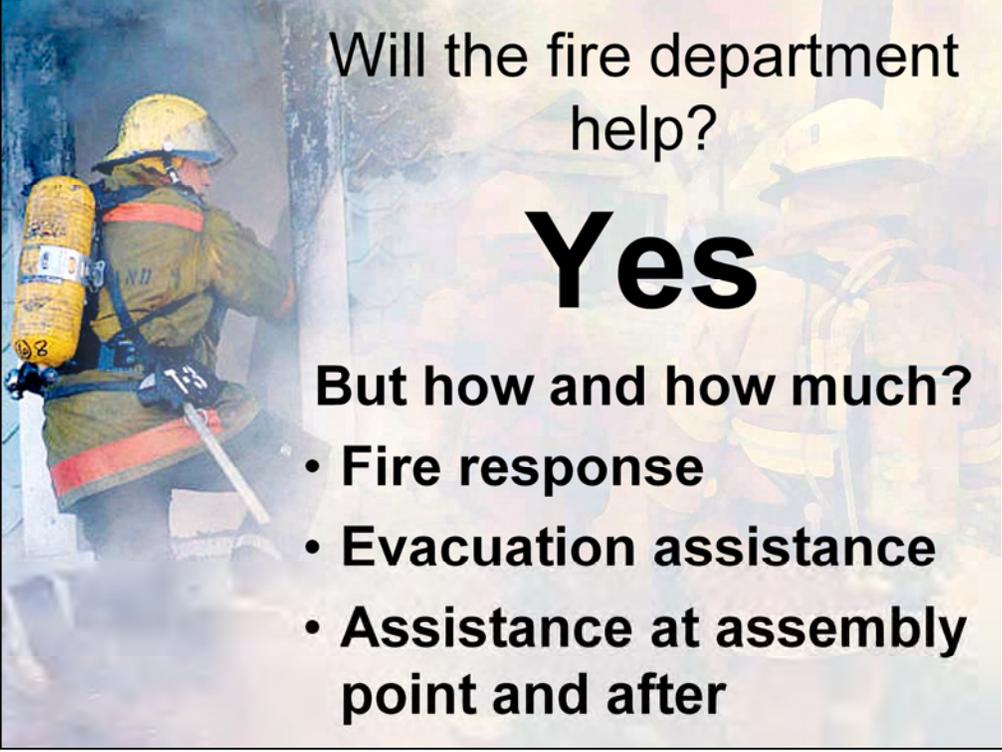
- The plan should identify where people will gather after evacuating to confirm that everyone evacuated safely
- The meeting place should be a “safe” distance from the building, avoid roads, fire hydrants and areas where rescue equipment/personnel may need access



KNOW THE PLAN

Components of an acceptable fire plan

- How best to help each person in the home



Will the fire department help?

Yes

But how and how much?

- Fire response
- Evacuation assistance
- Assistance at assembly point and after

New York State has over 1800 fire departments. They may have career members, all volunteer members, or a combination of paid and volunteer. There is huge disparity in size, equipment, response time, training, leadership, and more. They may or may not be the ambulance service provider for the facility. As OFPC Bureau Chief Pail Martin said, “We have the largest and best municipal fire department in the world in New York City. I can take you to some more remote rural places where the fire department is a few volunteers with a 40 year old truck and a ‘firehouse’ with dirt floors. Your fire department is probably somewhere in between.”

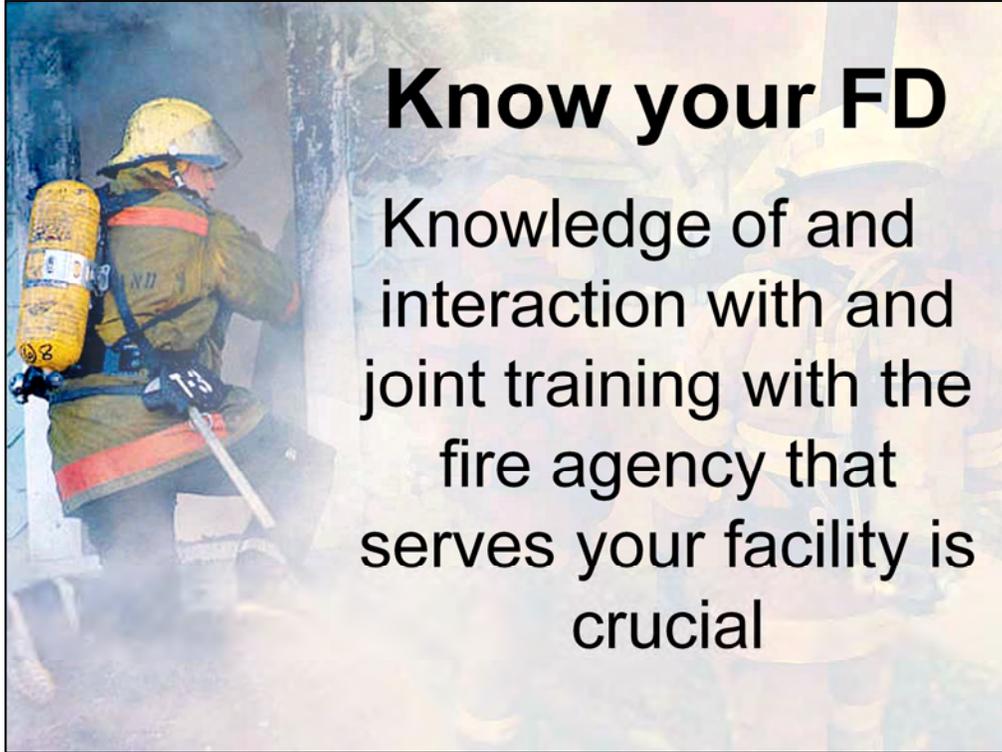
-Fire response: How fast? What will they come with? How many will they come with and who will those people be? (training, age, etc.)

-Evacuation assistance: In many places, it will be unlikely that the FD will have personnel enough to assist with evacuation. Also, the speed of fire and smoke progression makes it essential that evacuation substantially occur **before** the FD arrives. “**You are the first responders.**”

-It is unlikely that FD personnel will be available to maintain and care for individuals in the assembly area or transport to other locations. (Exception would be ambulance transport)

-Illustration story “2 group home residents die in Millcreek fire;”
<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011304169917> (Print copy in instructor’s Guide)

-<http://www.wicu12.com/news/index.vnss?newsid+11919&type=News>



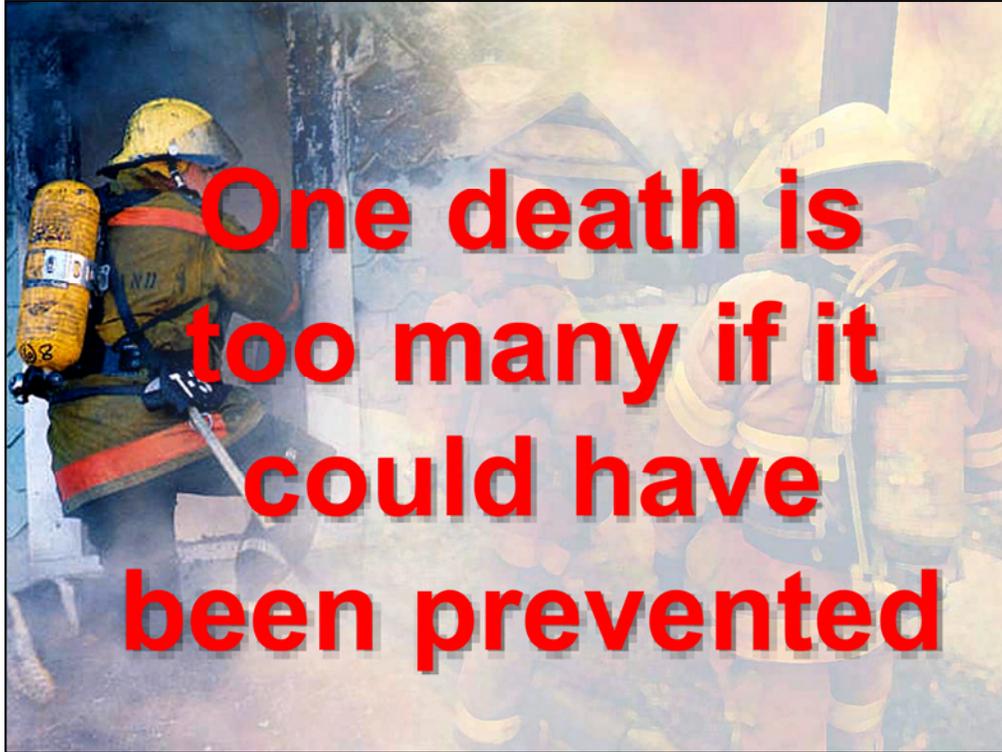
Know your FD

Knowledge of and interaction with and joint training with the fire agency that serves your facility is crucial



How you can assist your fire department

- Report evacuation progress
 - Accountability for individual's and staff
- Report individuals that may be in areas of refuge or safe areas
- Be available to provide building information
 - Alarm panel
 - Gas shutoffs
 - Electrical entrance
 - Fire sprinkler information
 - Floor plan (O₂ and medical equipment locations)



Consumer fire injury and death ... not on my watch!!



You must be responsible for safety and evacuation. The FD will not ultimately decide if you survive or don't. You are the First Responders". It is impossible to overemphasize the roll and importance of staff knowledge and action on consumer evacuation and survival in a fire event.

Make this a strong, motivational presentation that challenges staff to take fire safety seriously, make the right choices, take the right actions, and truly make the life and death difference they are positioned to make happen.

On Saturday March 21, 2009 a fire in the Riverview IRA, Sunmount DDSO, took the lives of four people and injured two staff residents and a staff member. That home was the newest and best in the system. Now, over two years later, many ask, "Could such a fatal fire happen again?" Many changes have been made. Policies and procedures have been modified. Buildings and systems have been upgraded. But, the answer to the question, "Could it happen again?" **may very well depend on you.**



Course Summary:

This concludes the Fire Safety Level One Training. You should have a better working knowledge of:

- How an effective and thorough understanding of Fire Safety is part of OPWDD's Mission and Vision.
- The myths and preconceived ideas people have about fire
- Your individual role in preventing fires from occurring.
- The goals of fire prevention
- An understanding that you are not firefighters but you are a first responder
- The components of the fire tetrahedron
- The importance of fire prevention as the only way to truly eliminate or reduce fire deaths, injuries, and property loss

Have Participants take the Post Test and review answers with them.

OPWDD Fire Safety Level One Post Test Answer Key

1. The most important single element of individual fire safety is
 - a. A proper evacuation plan
 - b. Staff education and actions**
 - c. Fire sprinklers in the home
 - d. Fire department response

2. The number of people killed by fire in the U.S. each year is
 - a. 100 - 500
 - b. 1000 - 2000
 - c. 3000 - 4000**
 - d. 5000 - 6000



3. Individuals in the OPWDD demographic are
 - a. less likely to die in fire than the general population
 - b. have about the same likelihood of dying in fire as the general population
 - c. *more likely to die in fire than the general population*
 - d. not separately analyzed in fire statistics

4. Of all natural disasters in the U.S., a person is most likely to die in a _____.
 - a. tornado
 - b. *fire*
 - c. earthquake
 - d. hurricane

5. The most significant factor in the cause and spread of fire is
 - a. lightweight construction
 - b. *human error*
 - c. synthetic materials
 - d. understaffed fire departments

6. The risk of dying in fire is greatest in
 - a. a business
 - b. wild fires
 - c. a school or college
 - d. *one's home*

7. Which one of the following characteristics of fire does not impact staff decisions related to prevention and evacuation
 - a. deadly smoke and gases
 - b. speed of development
 - c. heat
 - d. *type of building*

8. The order of fire prevention goals is
 - a. property conservation, life safety, continuity of operations
 - b. property conservation, continuity of operations, life safety
 - c. life safety, continuity of operations, property conservation
 - d. *life safety, property conservation, continuity of operations*



9. The most important firefighting anyone can do is
- becoming an effective fire department member
 - using a fire extinguisher properly
 - preventing the fire*
 - using a fire suppression hoseline
10. Because fire is understandable and predictable it is
- preventable*
 - interesting
 - dangerous
 - unavoidable
11. The number one cause of home fires is
- electricity
 - smoking
 - poor housekeeping
 - cooking*
12. When using a barbeque grill, fire safety requires
- keeping the grill well away from the residence
 - never using a grill under any overhang or covering or in a garage or shed
 - never leaving an operating grill unattended
 - All of the above*
13. The following are indicators of an overloaded electrical circuit, which may cause a fire **except**
- an extension cord that is warm to the touch
 - many outlets in a single room*
 - dimming lights when an appliance is turned on or starts
 - a high demand, high load appliance supplied by a lightweight extension cord
14. The single behavior **most** likely to prevent a fire in a clothes dryer is
- unplugging the dryer between uses
 - using the dryer only on low temperatures
 - keeping lint filters and vent ducts clean*
 - not using the dryer without a cool down period between loads



15. Those in a position to make the greatest difference in Individual's survival if a fire occurs are
- a. *on scene staff members*
 - b. trained emergency managers
 - c. emergency medical personnel
 - d. properly equipped firefighters

16. The most essential element of response to any fire alarm or discovered fire is

- a. *evacuation*
- b. fire department notification
- c. supervisor notification
- d. an attempt to locate and extinguish the fire

17. The greatest benefit of properly performed and documented evacuation drills is

- a. meeting agency requirements
- b. contributing to increased funding
- c. *embedding proper behaviors in the responses of participants*
- d. accounting for staff

18. At each work location it is critical for staff to know all of the following **except**

- a. *the distance the fire department must travel to the home*
- b. the evacuation plan for the house
- c. the layout of the house and exit locations
- d. the location of each individual and his or her capability and evacuation needs

19. Life Safety Code evacuation capability categories demand that the person or group be demonstrated to be able to "move _____ to a point of safety"

- a. correctly
- b. quickly
- c. together
- d. *reliably*

20. Which of the following is not a correct action as presented in the R.A.C.E. acronym?

- a. R - remove all persons in imminent danger to safety
- b. *A - assemble individuals at the meeting place*
- c. C - close doors to prevent the spread of smoke and fire
- d. E - evacuate

21. In deciding to, or not to, attempt to rescue an Individual from a fire emergency the first consideration must be



- a. how far away the Individual is from the exit
- b. *personal safety of the staff member*
- c. the number of staff members available to assist
- d. the Individual's E-score

22. Completion of evacuation drill report forms must be

- a. accurate
- b. timely
- c. unaltered
- d. *all of the above*

23. The meeting place for Individuals who are evacuated should be

- a. a safe distance from the residence
- b. known by all staff working the shift
- c. well out of the way of fire department response and operations
- d. *all of the above*

24. The responding fire department can be reasonably expected to

- a. *provide response for fire suppression*
- b. aid in Individual's evacuation
- c. provide assistance at the assembly point
- d. provide Individual's transportation after the incident

25. The best way to know fire department capabilities for a given location is to

- a. assume all departments provide the same level of service
- b. Google the department's website to learn its capabilities
- c. *contact the local fire chief to ask capabilities and suggest joint training*
- d. contact the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control for response statistics and resources lists

26. Staff members may assist the fire department by

- a. providing building and systems information
- b. reporting evacuation progress
- c. reporting Individuals that may be in safe areas or need evacuation assistance
- d. *all of the above*