

# Procedures for Extinguishing Small Fires

## Putting out Small Fires

- Remove the **heat** – for example, cool it with water.
- Remove the **air** – for example, smother it.
- Remove the **fuel** – for example, shut off the natural gas.

## Procedures for Extinguishing Fires Following Earthquakes:

- Natural gas fires – first, shut off the gas. Second, put the fire out by using an extinguisher, dirt or water.
- Electrical fires – first, shut off electricity. Second, put out the fire by using an extinguisher, dirt or water. (Caution: If the electricity cannot be shut off, **DO NOT use water on the fire.**)
- Oil or grease fires – Use baking soda, a lid, a bread board or a fire extinguisher to smother the flames. **NEVER use water on a great/oil fire.**

## Procedures for Using a Fire Extinguisher

- Remain calm.
- **P.A.S.S.** – “Point, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep”
- **VITAL:** Keep an escape route open between you and the **small** fire you are attempting to extinguish. If the fire is large or becomes too large, get out of your house immediately. Close the door on your way out to slow the spread of the flames.
- Always point the extinguisher at the base of the fire rather than at the top of the flames.
- Squeeze or press the handle, and slowly sweep the fire from side to side until it goes out.
- Remember, if the fire is too big for you to handle, get yourself and your family out of the house immediately. Don't stop to get anything or do anything. Seconds can make a difference.
- Once you are outside, stay outside. Intense heat and toxic fumes can kill you in seconds.

## Home Fire Protection

Many Americans believe that “fires only happen to other people, not to me and not in my home”. Yet over 70% of fire deaths occur in residences, most often claiming the lives of the young, the elderly and the disadvantaged. In addition to general safety and precautions for heating sources, there are three measures you can employ to warn you

and your loved ones of smoke or fire. You must decide which one(s) will provide you with the level of assurance you need in protecting your family and home from fire.

In the event of a fire, a smoke detector can save your life and those of your loved ones. They are one of the best safety features you can buy and install.

You can purchase smoke detectors in hardware stores, home improvement/supply stores, or fire departments sometimes offer smoke detectors for little or no cost. The ion type smoke detector reacts faster to open flames and is usually the least expensive, but the photoelectric type smoke detector reacts to smoldering fires and is less likely to react to cooking. Both types provide great protection. You should really have one in every room in your house except the kitchen and bathrooms, especially in the bedrooms that the doors are shut at night.

### **Fire Alarms**

A home fire alarm system is usually part of a total security system providing burglary protection in addition to fire protection. Such a system supervises doors and windows and spaces within the home for break-in and may also provide monitoring services by dialing your telephone to report a fire or intrusion to a security office, where it will be reported to your local police or fire department.

Due to their relatively high cost, these systems are generally found only in larger homes. The system can cost \$1,000 or more to install, with 24 hour monitoring service adding \$15 to #20 a month.