



Environmental Emergencies



BEACON
Specialized Living

Preparing for a Disaster



Preparation is Important!

Disaster Supply Kit

- Backpack and/or Duffle-Bag
- Radio, Flashlight, and Batteries
- First-Aid Kit and Medication
- Water and Food
- Clothing, Sleeping Bags, and Emergency Numbers

Preparing for a Disaster



Check Smoke Detectors

Know the Emergency Contact Information

Conduct Preparation Drills

Practice, Practice, Practice...

Stress During a Disaster

Lead Time for Requests

- Be mindful that it may not always be possible.
- Mind tornado watches and possible floods.
- The more time, the better.

Explain Clearly

- Residents deserve to be informed on what is going on.
- If it is not clearly explained, stress levels can rise due to the unknown.

Stress During a Disaster

Help Residents Anticipate

- Prepare for no power.
- Explain in a positive and reassuring manner.

Remain Calm, Objective, and Respectful

- Resident's can 'sense' when you are stressed.
- When you are stressed, it is difficult to maintain control of the situation.

Stress During a Disaster

Acknowledge Resident's Feelings

- “I know you are frustrated.”
- Remind them that it is better to be safe.

Know the Policy in Advance

Prep for Routine Disruption

- Important for Residents who are Routine Dependent.
- Let them know that the routine could and most likely will be disrupted.
- Communicate “How, When, and Where” if possible.

Severe Weather

Severe Weather Preparation

- Cell Phones Charged
- Have Back-Up Lighting Ready (including batteries)
- Make Sure Home Vehicle is Fueled
- Review Evacuation Plans and Staff Assignments

The Difference Between a 'Watch' and 'Warning'

- **Watch:** atmospheric conditions are favorable for the development of the weather condition.
- **Warning:** The weather condition has already developed and is imminent.

Thunderstorms

In the case of a thunderstorm

- Prepare for power outages.
- Halt or reschedule outdoor activities.
- Seek shelter immediately.

Lightning

In the case of lightning

- Avoid trees, telephone poles, and hills.
- Seek shelter.
- Stay away from metal.
- Call 911 if anyone is struck as it can cause electric shock and burns.

Floods

In the case of floods

- Avoid low places.
- Seek shelter.
- Prep the home.

Tornados

In the case of tornados

- Conduct monthly drills.
- Help staff and residents to the shelter area.

Winter Weather Hazards



Winter Weather and Heating Failures

- Ensure staff are aware of procedures and are prepared.
- Contact Maintenance On-Call and your Supervisor.
- You may move Residents to a hotel if heating or cooling cannot be fixed in a timely manner.

Some Precautions to Take

- Food and Water Storage
- Radios, Flashlights, and Batteries
- Your Facilities Supplies
- Know the Location of Supplies
- Prep Extra Blankets
- Dress for the Weather
- Encourage Movement

Follow similar steps for Air Conditioning behavior. Make sure everyone stay hydrated.

Hypothermia

What can occur:

- Lose Awareness
- Drowsy and Confused
- Have Difficulty Moving
- Unconsciousness

Precautions to take:

- Wear protective clothing
- Encourage movement
- Keep clothing 'loose and dry'
- Watch for shivering, drowsiness, muscle weakness, and numbness
- Check for low body temperatures

Frost Bite

Frostbite can affect any external body part.

Symptoms

- 'Pins and Needles'
- Hard, Pale, and Cold Skin
- Aching, Throbbing, and Lack of Feeling
- Red and Painful

Severe Frost Bite

- Blisters
- Gangrene
- Affects Tendons, Muscles, Nerves, and Bones

Power Outage

Contact the Home Manager/Supervisor and utility company to get a repair timeline. Follow instructions given.

Power Outage - Public

- Outage extends beyond 2-3 hours – use a portable generator
- To ensure access to water, cooling, or heat, contact supervisor and move residents to a hotel if needed.

Power Outage - Private

- Power equipment failure, breaker box failure, or cut power lines.
- Call Maintenance On-Call

Generator Failure

- Follow your home-specific plan.

Downed Power Lines

- **Stay at least 20-35 feet away (at least an ambulance length).**
If you are too close, shuffle away taking tiny steps with both feet on the ground. Don't let your feet touch.
- **Look up to see where it came down and what it could be touching.**
- **Never drive over a downed power line.**
- **Don't try to move it.**
- **In a car?**

Stay in the car and do not touch any metal parts. Call for help. If it is unsafe in the care, open the door without touching the metal. Don't touch the ground and care at the same time. Jump out with your feet together so they land at the same time and shuffle to safety.

Gas Leaks

1. Evacuate the home.
2. Do not use any electrical switches and/or telephones.
3. Leave the windows and doors open (if possible).
4. Meet up in the designated spot and call the gas company.
5. Contact management and maintenance.
6. Do not re-enter the home until the gas company approves.



Carbon Monoxide

A poisonous gas with no taste, color, or odor.

Common Sources

- Gas Engines Running Indoors
- Fuel and Wood Space Heaters
- Blocked Chimneys
- Furnaces and Water Heaters



Household Production

Combustion + Fuel = Insufficient Oxygen

Carbon Monoxide Prevention



Heating Systems
should be
inspected yearly.



Check for
possible
blockages.



Don't idle your
car in the
garage.



Be sure to install a
carbon monoxide
detector in the
home.

Carbon Monoxide Exposure

Since this poisonous gas has no smell, or taste and is invisible, special attention has to be paid to the exposure level.

Mild Exposure

Includes headache, nausea, fatigue, and vomiting.

Medium Exposure

Symptoms include severe headaches, confusion, rapid heart rate, and sleepiness.

Severe Exposure

Induces convulsions, unconsciousness, cardiac and respiratory failure and possibly death.

Carbon Monoxide Exposure

Since this poisonous gas has no smell, or taste and is invisible, special attention has to be paid to the exposure level.

Leave the Area Immediately

If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, get out of the area and into fresh air immediately.



Do not Enter

If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning in an area where you are not present, do not enter the area even if you see victims.



Call the Authorities

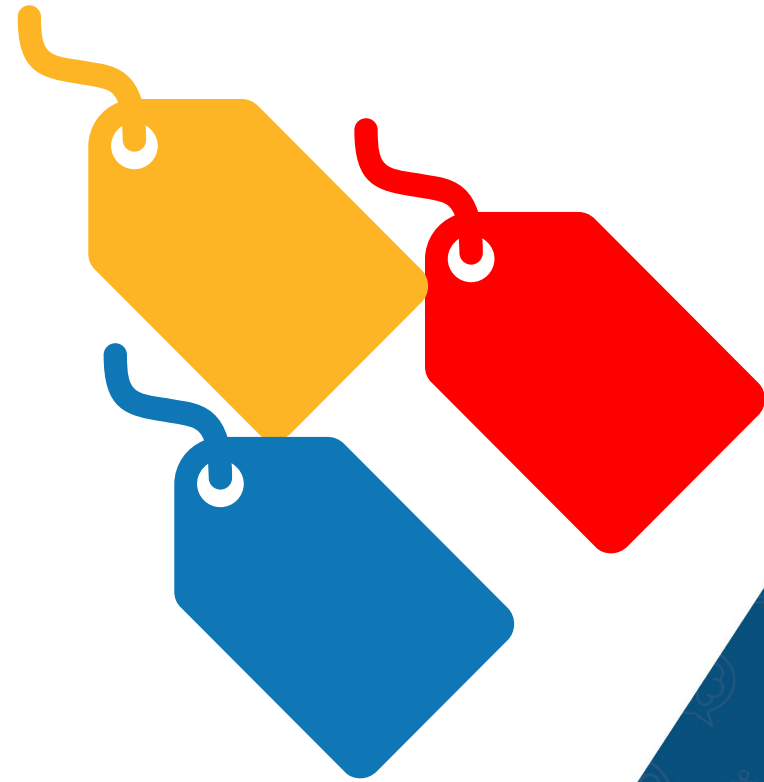
Call 911 or the local emergency number and wait for help to arrive unless instructed by professionals otherwise.

Utility Emergency

Emergency Power Shutdown

- Water System – Blue Tag
- Gas System – Yellow Tag
- Electric System – Red Tag

Make sure you know where the shut offs are located.



Water Shortage

Contact the Director of Facilities

- Coordinate water delivery.
- Locate possible nearby storage tanks.
- Locate other public water supplies.

Depending on where the water source is from, there may be additional steps you need to take to ensure the water is safe to drink. Follow all instructions.

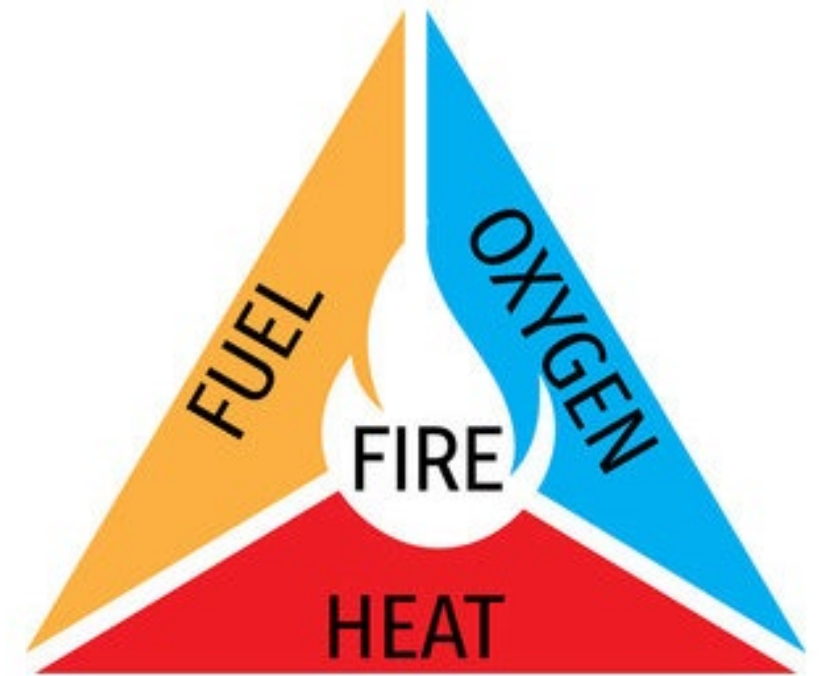
Fire – What Causes It?

Three Factors

- Air
- Heat
- Fuel

This is also known as the Fire Triangle.

If an element is missing, a fire can be stopped or prevented.



Fire – Smoke



Very few people are killed by burning. The majority are poisoned by toxic fumes (smoke). Smoke is made of a mixture of poisonous gases.

The most dangerous of these gases is Carbon Monoxide. This gas can kill those trapped in 2 to 3 minutes.

If Smoke is present, crawl or crouch and stay 1 to 2 feet from the floor. The lower, the better.

When trying to get a Resident off from a bed, use the bedding to pull them down, **do not stand.**

Fire – Potential Hazards

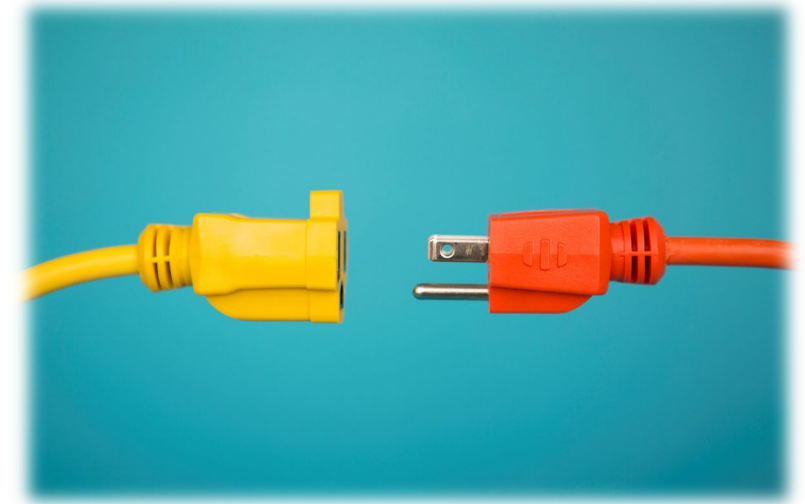


Smoking Hazards

- Residents and Staff are not using approved containers to store cigarette butts.
- Check that all cigarette butts are out after smoke breaks.
- Make sure rules are enforced for both Residents and Staff.

Electrical Hazards

- Overloading outlets by plugging too many things in.
- Using frayed or spliced cords.
- Keeping extension cords under rugs and running over equipment.



Matches and Lighters

- Residents turn in smoking materials as directed by policy.
- Candles are not allowed in Resident's Rooms.

Fire – Be Prepared



Drills

- Make sure Staff and Residents know the Primary and Alternative escape routes.
- Divide responsibilities among staff.
- Prompt Residents for evacuation.
- Make sure staff know how to use Fire Extinguishers in case exits are blocked.
- Make sure everyone knows what to do before, during, and after the drill.

Fire Protection Plan

- This is your guideline for what to do. It will include written directions and methods of escape.
- Will include any physical limitations for Residents such as mobility, hearing ,etc.
- All staff must read and familiarize themselves with the plan.

Fire – Fire Drills



All drills are to be conducted with the normal number of staff on duty for that particular shift.

The monthly drills should be conducted once per shift, per quarter.

All staff and residents must evacuate within the 3-minute time limit, or the drill will need to be done again.

Surprise fire drills should also take place during 'inconvenient' times (mealtime, bath times, medication times, night, or early morning). This is because fires have no time frame during which they will occur.

General Fire Drill Procedure

Staff Communication

Staff should communicate with one another to know which person will be doing what duties during the drill. One staff should grab the house's portable phone and one grab the emergency kit.

Alarm

The alarm should be pulled by staff (if appropriate), or it will go off if it is a surprise drill.

Start the Timer

Start the timing process as soon as the drill goes off. Remember, drills should not take longer than 3 minutes.

General Fire Drill Procedure

Evacuation Plan

Staff should know and follow the evacuation plan. Give the instructions used in the plan (go to the big tree in the front yard). Never shout, yell, or call "Fire".

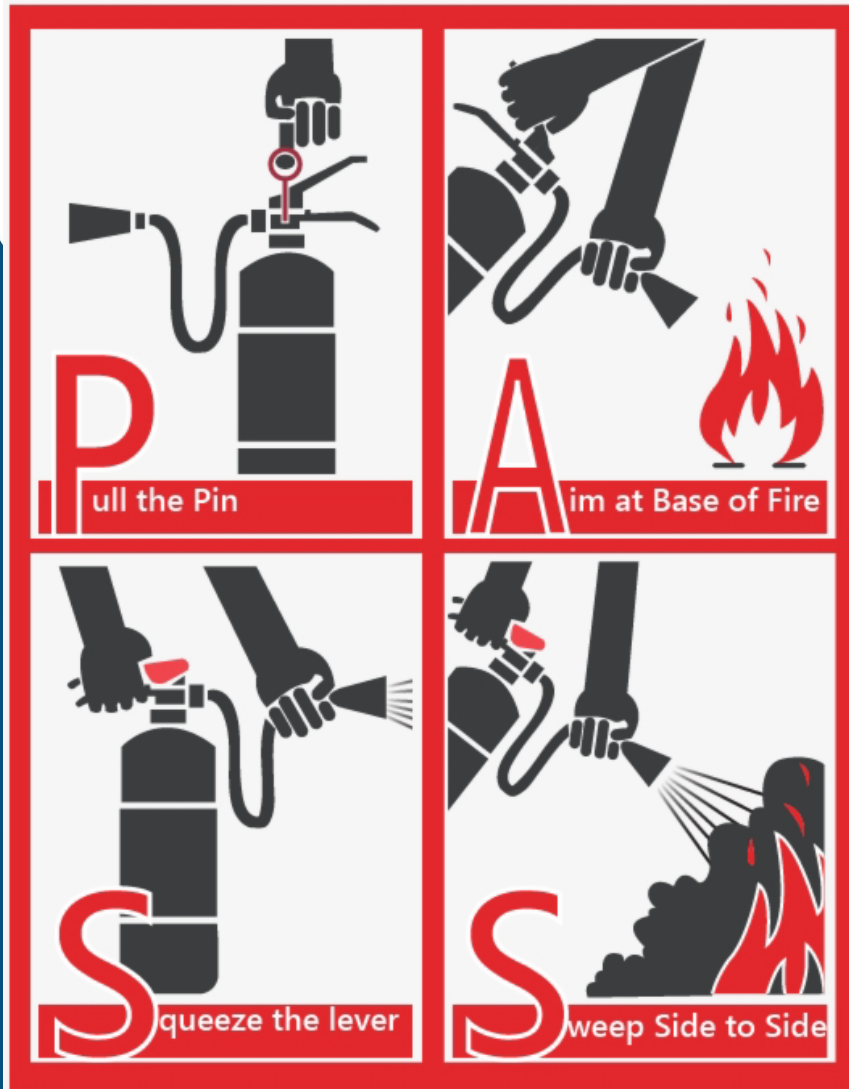
Prompts and Assistance

Give prompts and assistance as needed. The goal is destination training for residents and practice for staff. So, if there is an actual fire, they will know where to go.

Ensure Evacuation Complete

Ensure all parts of the home have been evacuated.

Fire Extinguishers



Pull

Pull the pin that unlocks the lever or pull the plastic inspection key off.

Aim

Aim low and point the nozzle at the base of the fire.

Squeeze

Squeeze the lever/button to release the fire retardant.

Sweep

Sweep the nozzle or hose from side to side while moving closer to the flames. Let go of the lever/button to stop the discharge.

Destination Training



The goal of evacuation, fire, and tornado drills is for residents to calmly and safely exit the home and report to the designated destination without assistance (if able).

This allows residents to practice evacuation when there is no panic or confusion.

Destination training by itself does not count as the monthly fire or tornado drill. These drills also allow staff to test and practice their preparedness in case of an emergency.

Phone Outage

Landline Phones

- Ensure the home's cell phone stays charged.
- Use solar phone chargers if power outages are occurring as well.
- Contact the Director of Facilities and provider.

Cellular Phones

- Check if the landline is working. Also check internet services.
- Utilize internet communication if available (Email, Shoretel, Teams, Google Calls, etc.)
- Contact IT and the provider.

Poisoning

Ingestion of Toxic Substance

- Medications, cleaning products, rubbing alcohols, etc.
- Ensure the Med Room stays locked.

Call Poison Control (1-800-222-1222)

- DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING BEFORE CALLING!
- Don your PPE if providing CPR/First Aid



Flush eyes with wash solution if it got on skin or in eyes. Hold eye open while flushing if in eye.

Follow up with Home Manager and Healthcare Provider. Complete an Incident Report per the policy.

Common Poison Entry Points

- Inhalation by breathing in poisonous fumes.
- Injection by needles or insect stings.
- Absorption via the skin.
- Ingestion by swallowing.

Poisoning Prevention

- Safe Storage: Be sure to lock up the poisons in a sure area per your home's policy. If they are left out, keep them under your control.
- Keep poisonous products in their original containers. The label will provide critical information needed in the event of accidental poisoning.
- Never store food near household chemicals.
- Stay away from areas treated with pesticides as the directions dictate.
- If any chemical is past its expiration date, be sure to dispose of it in a safe manner.
- Never combine products. Mixed chemicals can have an adverse reaction.
- Be sure to use any kind of chemical product in a well-ventilated area.
- Always wash your hands after using any sort of chemical.

What to do if someone is poisoned?

- Remain calm.
- Who you will call will depend on the condition of the person at the time. Contact the 911, the local emergency number, or Poison Control Helpline with the following information:
 - Condition of the Person
 - Name of the Poison
 - How much was taken.
 - Amount of time that has passed since it was taken.
 - Age and weight of the person.

Pica

If you support Residents with Pica behavior, be aware of the potential for poisoning. Pica is generally defined as the compulsive eating of non-edible substances.



Common Ingested Substances

- Clay
- Starch
- Plastic
- Dirt
- Plants
- Plaster
- Stones
- Gloves
- Wood
- Cigarette Butts

Bomb Threats

1. Promptly call 911 and the Home Manager (or next in the chain of command).
2. Fill out the Bomb Threat Checklist Form which is found near the telephone.
 - Note caller's telephone number, date and time of call, and the number of the phone where the call was received.
 - Listen and write exact wording of the treat, notes about caller's voice, language used and any background sounds.
3. Staff will go with residents to the designated location outside of Beacon.
4. Home Manager/Designated Staff will assist law enforcement in searching and clearing the building.
5. All staff not currently present will be notified.
6. An Incident Report(s) will be filled out as needed.

Bomb threat drills are conducted as least once a year.



Other Emergencies

National and State Emergencies

- Follow the directions provided by your Governor or Mayor.
- The National State of Emergency is sent out via Text Alert. Follow any instructions.

Terrorist Threat (Either over the phone or on-site.)

1. Call 911.
2. Contact Home Manager, District Director, and All-Hazards Commander.
3. Keep a record of the call (if applicable) similar to a bomb threat.
4. If they are on site – do not attempt to subdue them and instruct the residents and other staff to cooperate until help arrives.
5. If a suspicious package is located on-site, do not assume it is the only one.
6. Cooperate with law enforcement and follow directions.



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