Fire Safety and Utility Controls

CERT Basic Training
Unit 2 for Online Course
2019-08-27

CERT Priorities

- Help in emergencies before professional responders arrive
- Rescuer safety is number one priority
  - Always work with a buddy
  - Always wear safety equipment

CERT Goal:
Do the greatest good for the greatest number

CERT Sizeup

1. Gather Facts
2. Assess Damage
3. Consider Probabilities
4. Assess Your Situation
5. Establish Priorities
6. Make Decisions
7. Develop Plan of Action
8. Take Action
9. Evaluate Progress

REMEMBER:
CERT SIZEUP IS A CONTINUOUS PROCESS

(based on 9/15/2015 version)
CERT Fire Sizeup

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

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

Deciding to Use a Fire Extinguisher

- Consider whether fires and safety are not a risk.
- Leave immediately if they occur.
- Put out the fire by using a fire extinguisher.

- Do I have the right type of extinguisher?
  - Yes → Use extinguisher.
  - No → Leave immediately.

- Is the extinguisher large enough for the fire?
  - Yes → Use extinguisher.
  - No → Leave immediately.

- Do I have the fire extinguisher's pressure? (plunger and handle)
  - Yes → Use extinguisher.
  - No → Leave immediately.

- Can I extinguish the fire in 5 seconds?
  - Yes → Use extinguisher.
  - No → Leave immediately.

Reference PM 2-23

Look for Creative Resources to Fight Fires

- If you don’t have a fire extinguisher handy, look for other resources:
  - Swimming pool or spa water and buckets
  - Sand or dirt and shovels
  - A garden hose
  - Confinement
  - In interior spaces, it is possible to confine a fire and restrict the spread of smoke and heat by closing doors, interior and exterior.
Fire Suppression Don’ts

- Don’t get too close
- Don’t try to fight a fire alone
- Don’t try to suppress large fires
- Don’t enter smoke-filled areas

Electrical Panel Shutoff Procedures

- Fuse box with shutoff
- Circuit box with shutoff

Natural Gas Meter With Shutoff

Reference PM 2-10
Unit 2 HOMEWORK

- Get a fire extinguisher for your home, if you don't have one
- check the date on your fire extinguishers & replace if necessary
- Read Fire Extinguisher Tips from Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ConFire) - http://www.walnut-creek.org/home/showdocument?id=20116
- check you home for proper storage of hazardous materials
- check your home for dangerous 'octopus' extension cords and over loading of electrical outlets
- review this gas shutoff section of the CERT Participant Manual
- Watch electrical safety video 'This Might Shock You: Downed Power Line' by Puget Sound Energy - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUv4mTkGQDY
- Provider's notes for video: "If you come across a downed power line, stay as far away from it as you can and call 911 or Pacific Gas & Electric at 1-800-947-5000. Assume it’s live. Never touch a downed power line or anything near it. Do not drive over down power lines. Should a power line fall on your car when you’re driving, stay in your car to avoid complete electrocution. If you can drive away from the power line, do so immediately. Do not touch or help someone who is in contact with a power line. Do not drive your vehicle if it is stopped between two power lines. Keep away from any broken or dangling power lines. Be sure you are always aware of the potential for additional lines to fall. If your car goes down on a downed power line, stay in your car until power line personnel arrive. If you watch carefully, you’ll notice that we missed a couple of important safety issues. While filming the video, we neglected to make sure each driver was wearing their seat belt. It’s important to be safe around electricity and to always wear your seat belt and never text while driving."