

**ESP**

# FAMILY STEPS TO SURVIVAL

## Learn Not to Burn



For additional information go to [www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org)  
Or call 626-939-8824

### WHY?

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

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

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

Disaster-related fires also are caused by:

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

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

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

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

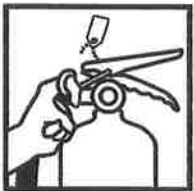
**STEP 10**  
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## Fire Extinguishers

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

### How to Operate

Hold the extinguisher upright and remember the word "P-A-S-S":



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



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



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



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

### Buying Tips

Several types of fire extinguishers are available:

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

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

### Safety Tips

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

### Smoke Detectors

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

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

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

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