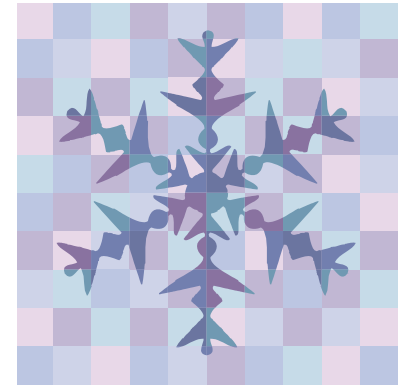

Environmental Emergencies



**Preventing, Preparing and
Responding**





EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



- Identifying emergency situations
 - Planning ahead
 - Prevention
 - Managing crisis
 - Maintaining a safe environment
 - Teaching people to prepare
 - Procedures and policies
-



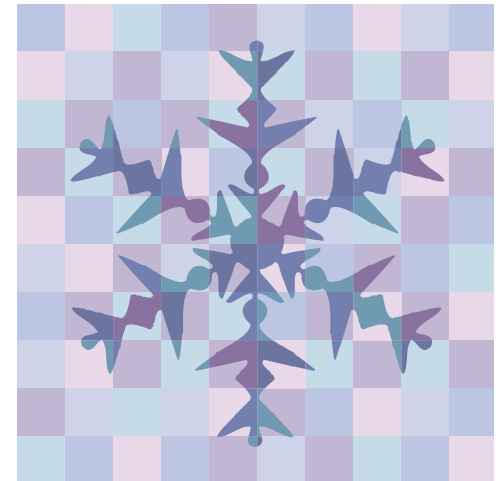
Your role as teacher

- To prevent emergencies
 - To prepare for emergencies
 - What to do in case of emergency
 - To teach emergency preparedness to the people living in your community residential setting
-



SOURCES OF EMERGENCY

- ❑ Winter Storms
- ❑ Heating Failure/Power outages
- ❑ Thunderstorms/Lightning
- ❑ Tornadoes
- ❑ Floods
- ❑ Fire
- ❑ Water shortages
- ❑ Poisoning





SEVERE WEATHER

- Your best source of information during a storm is a **battery powered radio**.
- Watch television or listen to the radio to follow conditions
- WATCH vs. WARNING
- Watch means there could be severe weather because conditions are right. Stay tuned.
- Warning means a severe weather condition is present – seek shelter immediately!





Lightening during a thunderstorm.



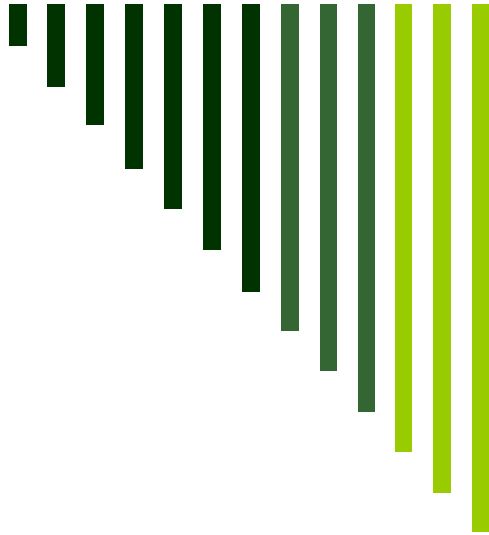
- Seek shelter
 - Avoid high places – they act as natural lightening rods
 - Stay away from open water and metal equipment (tractors, bicycles, etc.)
 - Stay away from wire fences, clotheslines, metal pipes
 - If you are a group, keep several yards apart
-



Tornadoes

- ❑ Stay away from doors, windows, and outside walls
- ❑ If you don't have a basement, go to an inside hall or room with no windows
- ❑ Keep a radio tuned for weather information and updates
- ❑ If you are in a car/van, seek shelter in a large building. If none, lie down low in a ditch or ravine
- ❑ Do not attempt to outrun a tornado!





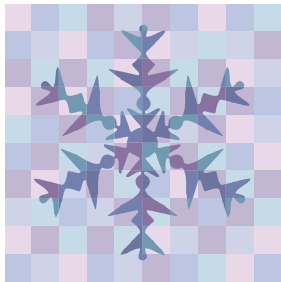
Floods



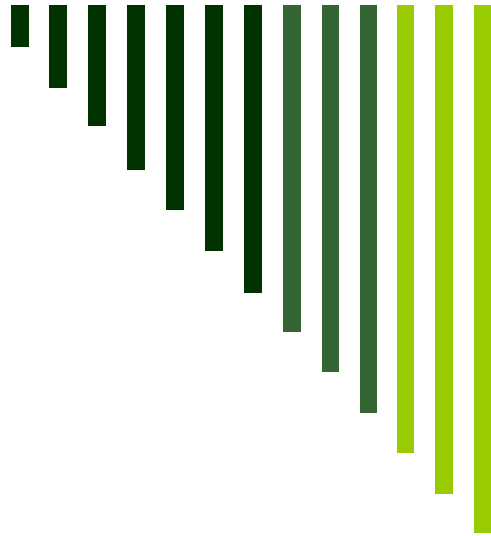
Avoid low places.



Winter Weather – storms and heating failures



- ❑ Keep posted on weather conditions in your area through radio or television.
 - ❑ Stock emergency supplies of food and water.
 - ❑ Keep a battery powered radio and fresh batteries.
 - ❑ Flashlights
 - ❑ Sleeping bags
 - ❑ Dress in layers
 - ❑ Move around
-



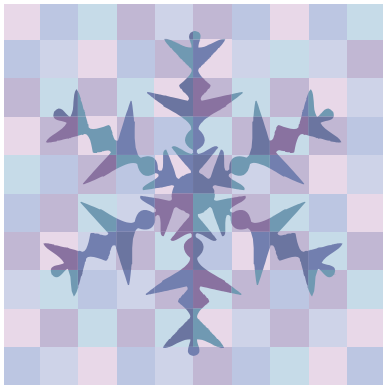
Portable heaters are not permitted for use in community residential settings!



Do not use candles for heat or light!



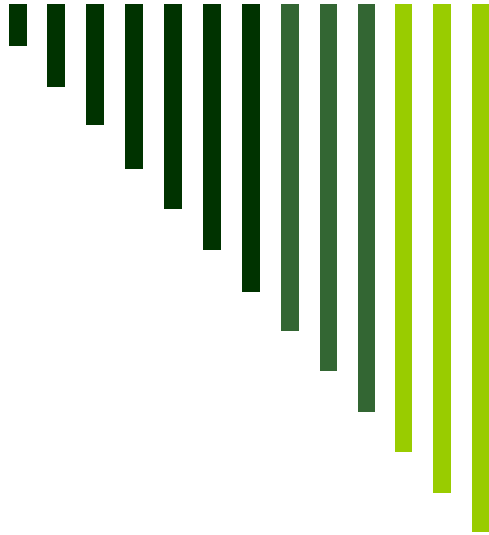
Frostbite and Hypothermia



Frostbite results from freezing part of the body.

Hypothermia is from prolonged exposure to cold.

Both require prompt medical attention.



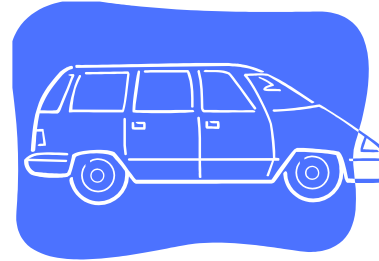
Limit the amount of time individuals are exposed to extreme cold.



Watch for shivering, numbness, low body temperature, drowsiness and/or muscle weakness.



Safe Driving



- ❑ Fasten seat belts. Make sure everyone is buckled up.
 - ❑ Clean windshield and mirrors
 - ❑ Before driving reset mirror and seat.
 - ❑ Know your vehicle – does it have antilock brakes?
 - ❑ Use signals for lane change and turns.
 - ❑ Don't tailgate, anticipate stops
 - ❑ Take your time!
 - ❑ Watch for deer!
 - ❑ Watch road and weather conditions – keep winter storm supplies in your vehicle, such as emergency first aid kit and extra gloves, mittens, hats, socks, and blankets.
-



Power Outages

- Always have a battery-powered radio or television available.
- Keep spare batteries
- Have a cell phone
- Use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns
- Avoid opening refrigerator and freezer
- Use insulated coolers
- Keep a supply of bottled water

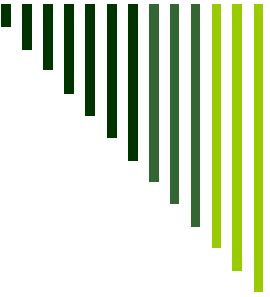




Poisoning



- ❑ 1-800-222-1222 POISON CONTROL
 - ❑ If you suspect any type of poisoning, call for assistance.
 - ❑ Keep all medications locked
 - ❑ Store cleaning supplies out of sight and out of reach
 - ❑ Keep all products in original containers
-



If someone has swallowed a substance you suspect is poisonous:



- Transport to medical facility
 - Bring container(s) of the substance(s) involved with you
 - If vomiting occurs, bring vomitus with you. Bring a basin or bag with you when transporting to medical facility.
-

**REMEMBER: THE
WRONG TREATMENT
IS OFTEN MORE
DANGEROUS THAN
NO TREATMENT!**



**The first step if you think someone
has swallowed a poison is to call
Poison Control.**

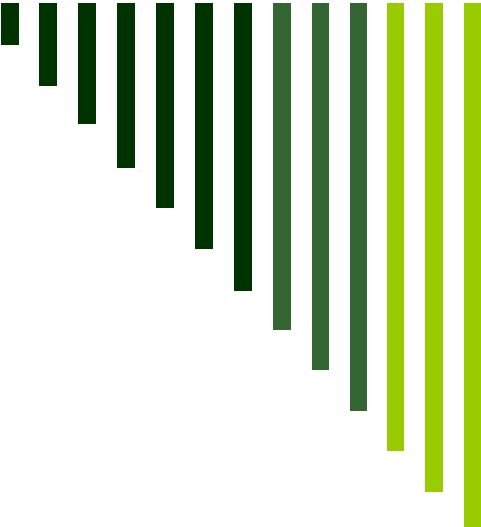


Fire Safety and Training

□ Causes for fire:

- Careless smoking
- Heating and cooking equipment
- Hot objects – burning trash, open flames
- Matches and open flames
- Misuse of electricity
- Other sources

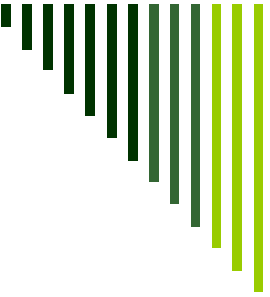




Your first priority in the event of a fire is to evacuate all people from the house.

Get out now!

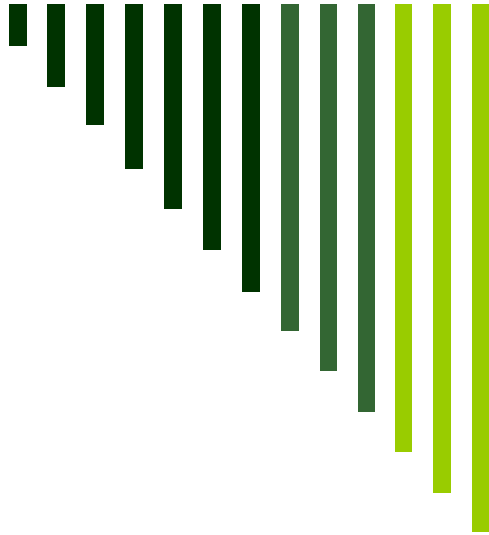




No attempt should be made to fight a fire except to evacuate or rescue someone.

Use fire extinguishers only to fight your way out of a fire or to rescue someone.

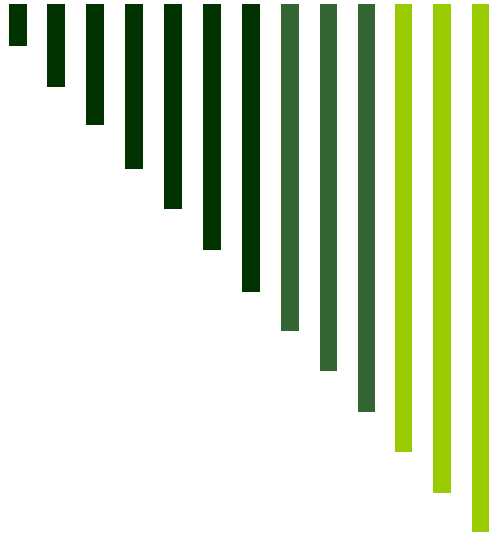




Smoke inhalation is the most common cause of injury and death.



**Cover mouths and noses with wet cloths if possible. Stay low.
Do not re-enter the house.**



Save Lives

With knowledge, prevention, fire drills, evacuation training and early detection.



The Fire Triangle

- Fuel – something to burn
 - Heat – from something hot
 - Air – to supply oxygen
-
- Where there is smoke, there is danger:
Get out low and get out **FAST!**
-



Smoke, not flames, is the real killer in a fire.

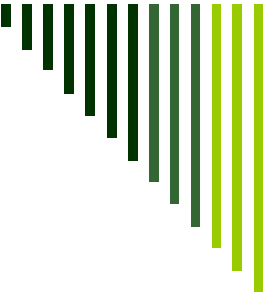
- ❑ Most fire victims are poisoned by toxic fumes.
 - ❑ The most dangerous poisonous gas is carbon monoxide.
 - ❑ CO can cause unconsciousness in two or three breaths and kill in two or three minutes.
 - ❑ Stay close to the floor – do not stand to get others out. Pull the person on bedding that can't get out on their own.
 - ❑ Never open a door without first checking to see if it is warm to the touch.
-



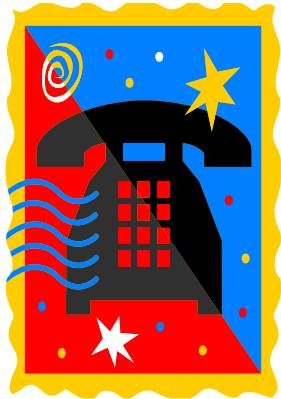
There is no time to waste.

- Get everyone out.
- Call the fire department.

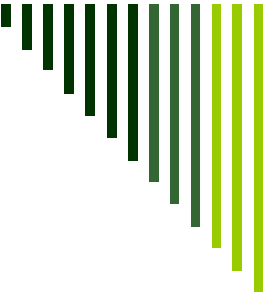




When you call the fire department, be sure to stay on the line until they tell you to hang up.



- The fire department will want to know:
 - Your name
 - The name, house number, street, and nearest cross streets of your community
 - The residence's phone number
 - Type of fire, if known
 - Cause of fire, if known
 - Number of individuals who may still be inside the burning building
-



For the safety of individuals and staff in the community residential setting, take responsibility to make sure alarms and smoke detectors are regularly checked, cleaned, and batteries replaced on a regular basis.





Prevention

- Test, clean and replace batteries of smoke detectors.
- Check appliances
- Smoking safety – designated area outside, clean ashtrays
- No extension cords
- No flammable liquids
- Keep matches out of reach
- Keep cooking surfaces clear
- No water on grease fires while cooking
- No candles!!!!





Preparing for Emergencies

- Decide which method of escape to use.
 - Practice fire drills regularly. Have a pre-arranged meeting place.
 - Do not open doors or windows. If the door feels warm, don't open it.
 - Close all doors behind you.
-



Teaching People to Evacuate

- Individuals living in the home need the same opportunity to learn how to evacuate from their home and go to a designated location.
- The goal is to meet a safety standard of less than 3 minutes. Preferably 2 ½ minutes.
- Preparation for emergencies includes bringing the emergency kit.





Fire Extinguishers

- The first responsibility of the Community Residential Setting Staff is to get everyone out of the home alive.
 - Fire extinguishers are used only to fight your way out of a fire or to rescue someone.
 - Fire extinguishers only last a few seconds.
 - Fire extinguishers need to be checked at least monthly to ensure that they are properly charged and functional.
-



Environmental Emergencies



- As a direct care worker, it is your responsibility to insure the safety of the people living in the home and the staff who work with them.
 - Prepare, prevent and practice.
 - Know what to do in any emergent event.
-