



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TEAM SEARCH AND RESCUE

“People Helping People”

Newsletter
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July in Brief

***DPART SAR Members (Usama and Asad) treated the minor injuries a person involved in a motorcycle accident**

It has been a quiet month with many DPART SAR Members scaling high peaks (Ali Mohammed - Nanga Parbat) and others travelling out of the country (Dan & Alana - Alaska, U.S.A.). Several training sessions are being planned for the coming months - stay tuned.

Coming up in August

***DPART SAR Team members 'Get Together'**

***Traffic Management Training with Islamabad Traffic Police** * to be advised

***Physical Therapy and Psycho-Social Awareness Sessions** * to be advised

***Operational Training Course** *to be advised

**DPART SAR TEAM MEMBERS
are
“People helping People”**

**by doing the greatest
good for the greatest
number by staying safe.**

Response to a Fire - do you know what to do?

Rescuer's personal safety is ALWAYS the number one priority.

DPART SAR members **DO NOT**

attend bomb scares or industrial (chemical) fires.

DPART SAR members **DO**

MAKE a danger assessment

WORK with a buddy,

WEAR safety equipment (gloves, helmet, goggles, mask & boots) and

CHECK fire suppression equipment regularly

Fires can occur anywhere, anytime. Hazards - electrical, natural gas and flammable liquids are all around particularly, the home and workplace.

Prevention measures will go far in reducing the likelihood of fires

- locate potential sources of ignition
- reduce or eliminate the hazards

DANGER ASSESSMENT

It is essential to follow the nine steps of SIZE UP before beginning to take any action

Can you and your buddy fight the fire safely?

DO you both have the right equipment?

Are there any other hazards?

Is the building structurally damaged?

Can you both escape?

If the area is safe to proceed in, utilities are turned off, you are wearing safety equipment, your extinguisher is appropriate and has not expired, you have established a safe distance with your buddy, and know your exit route then begin to suppress the fire. Remember **PASS - Pull Aim Squeeze Sweep**

*****Refer to an excerpt of the article by Usama Bin Najam, (full article can be found at DPART Google groups) and Unit 2: Fire Safety, in your DPART SAR E.R.T. Basic Course Handbook for more comprehensive information about how to suppress a fire.**

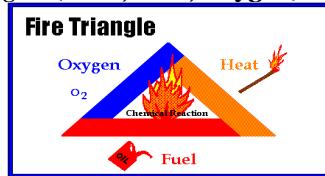
Fire Safety and Suppression

Courtesy: NEC Compiled By: **Usama Bin Najam, Team Leader - Central, DPART SAR**

Fire Chemistry

Fire Safety, at its most basic, is based upon the principle of keeping fuel sources and ignition sources separate.

The fire triangle consists of three things: - **(Heat, Fuel, Oxygen)** => Basic Ingredients of Fire



Three things **must** be present at the same time to produce fire:-

1. Enough OXYGEN to sustain combustion
 2. Enough HEAT to reach ignition temperature
 3. Some FUEL or combustible material
- Together they produce the CHEMICAL REACTION that is fire
 - Take away any of these things and the fire will be extinguished

Fuel Classification

Fires are classified according to the type of fuel that is burning. If you use the wrong type of fire extinguisher on the wrong class of fire, you might make matters worse.

It is very important to understand the four different fire (fuel) classifications:-

Class A: Wood, paper, cloth, trash, plastics (solids that are not metals).

Class B: Flammable liquids—gasoline, oil, grease, acetone (includes flammable gases).

Class C: Electrical—energized electrical equipment (as long as it is “plugged in”).

Class D: Metals—potassium, sodium, aluminium, magnesium (requires Metal-X, foam and other special extinguishing agents).

Most fire extinguishers will have a pictograph label telling you which type of fire the extinguisher is to be used for.



Hazmats (Hazardous Materials)

These may also cause in the ignition of fire. These are also dangerous for health and safety.

You should follow the **L.I.E.S.** rule in case of HAZMATS:-

L => Limit them (proper separate storage)

I => Isolate them

E => Eliminate them

S => Separate them

Types of Fire Extinguishers

Different types of fire extinguishers are designed to fight different classes of fire.

The 3 most common types of fire extinguishers are:

1. Water (APW => Air-Pressurized Water) (**Class A fires only**)
2. Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) (**Class B and C (Flammable Liquids & Electrical Sources)**)
3. Dry Chemical Powder (**ABC, BC, DC**)

How to Use a Fire Extinguisher

It's easy to remember how to use a fire extinguisher if you remember the acronym **PASS**:

- **Pull** the Pin
- **Aim** at the base of the fire
- **Squeeze** the top handle
- **Sweep** from side to side

