

Instructor Guide to Unit Three:  
**Fire Safety**

1. The goal of this unit is to provide participants information about fire hazards and personal fire safety, introduce the concept of size up, and reinforce the concept of teamwork.
  
2. This is the content for Unit Three:
  - a. Explain the role of CERT in fire safety 10 minutes
  - b. Fire and utility risks in home and workplace 10 minutes
  - c. 9 steps of size up process 10 minutes
  - d. Conduct basic size up 10 minutes
  - e. Operate portable fire extinguishers correctly 20 minutes

Unit three is scheduled for 1 hour.

Time spent on each unit can be maneuvered by dropping content and referring to its placement in the take-home materials. This permits flexibility on the part of the instructor and encourages participants to question or discuss course matters. It also holds the instructor to the time limit for the unit without expecting participants to stay overtime or to have instructors who follow to give up their time.

3. Supplies needed for Unit Three:
  - a. LCD projector
  - b. Computer linked to LCD projector
  - c. Computer disk containing Unit Three power point presentation
  - d. Instructor Guide for Unit Three
  - e. Participant's Manual for CERT
  - f. Fire extinguishers, burn pans, fuel, lighter, tarp (or electronic fire extinguisher unit)

4. Instructional staffing requirements:  
Two instructors are required for this unit. One should be a firefighter.

5. Creative Contributions

In the column to the right of each of the slides in this unit, there is space to take notes on teaching techniques that are fun, funky, and innovative. Use the classroom time in this train-the-trainer course to share ideas on how to reach people with different learning styles. Seal good ideas, generate some yourself, and utilize other's ideas as a foundation to develop new training techniques that benefit all course participants!

## Community Emergency Response Training Unit 3: Fire Safety



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### Introduction and Unit Overview

The role of CERTs in fire safety:

- Put out small fires.
- Prevent additional fires.
- Shutoff utilities
- Assist with evacuations where necessary.



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### Unit Objectives

- Explain the role of CERTs in fire safety.
- Identify and reduce potential fire risks in the home and workplace.
- Conduct a basic sizeup for a fire emergency.
- Understand basic safety precautions.
- Identify hazardous materials in the home and community.
- Extinguish small fires using a fire extinguisher.

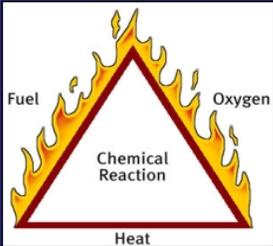


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### The Fire Triangle

- Heat
- Fuel
- Oxygen



The diagram shows a triangle with flames around it. The top-left side is labeled 'Fuel', the top-right side is labeled 'Oxygen', and the bottom side is labeled 'Heat'. In the center of the triangle, the words 'Chemical Reaction' are written.

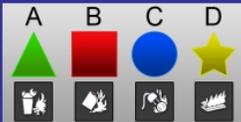
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6. Be prepared to answer, ‘what if’ questions and stress that with any one of the three elements missing fire is extinguished.

### Fire Chemistry

Classes of fire:

- A: Ordinary combustibles
- B: Flammable and combustible liquids
- C: Energized electrical equipment
- D: Combustible metals



The icons are arranged in a row: a green triangle (A), a red square (B), a blue circle (C), and a yellow star (D). Below each icon is a small black square containing a white icon representing the class of fire.

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7. The new industrial kitchen extinguisher is called a K class – be prepared to address questions about it.

### Reducing Fire Hazards in Home and Workplace

- Avoid the “electrical octopus”
- Don’t run cords under carpets
- Replace broken or frayed cords
- Maintain appliances



The photo shows a white electrical outlet on a wall with several black and white power cords plugged into it, some of which are bundled together and run across the floor.

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8. Space heaters require 3 feet of space between it and surrounding items in a household.



### Reducing Fire Hazards in Home and Workplace

- Install a natural gas detector
- Locate and label gas shutoffs



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### Reducing Fire Hazards in Home and Workplace

- Read labels
- Use L.I.E.S. storage procedures (Limit, Isolate, Eliminate, Separate)



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### CERT sizeup

Answer these questions:

- Can my buddy and I fight the fire safely?
- Do we have the right equipment?
- Are there other hazards?
- Is the building structurally damaged?
- Can we escape?



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### CERT Sizeup

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



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### Firefighting Resources

Resources available:

- Portable fire extinguishers
- Wet standpipes
- Confinement
- “Creative resources”



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### Types of Fire Extinguishers

- Water
- Dry chemical
- Carbon dioxide
- Specialized



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### P.A.S.S

- Pull
- Aim
- Squeeze
- Sweep



Test the extinguisher before approaching any fire



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### Fire Suppression Safety

Do:

- Use safety equipment
- Work in a buddy system
- Have a backup team
- Have two ways to exit
- Maintain a safe distance
- Overhaul the fire




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### Fire Suppression Safety

DON'T

- Try to suppress large fires
- Get too close
- Fight it alone
- Enter smoke-filled areas




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9. Emphasize importance of PPE. Tell participants to follow PPE guidelines as specified by local jurisdiction. Wear PPE as part of all demonstrations and activities

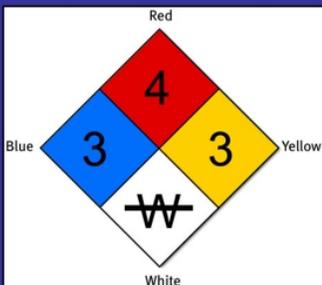
### Hazardous Materials . . .

- Corrode other materials
- Explode or are easily ignited
- React strongly with water
- Are unstable when exposed to heat or shock
- Are toxic to humans, animals, or the environment



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### Identifying Stored Hazardous Materials



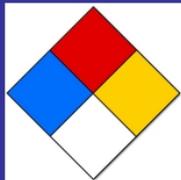
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10. Don't get too in-depth about placards  
Emphasize that they are a "stop sign"

### Identifying Stored Hazardous Materials

NFPA 704 Diamond-White Quadrant:

- **W** Shows unusual reactivity with water
- **OX** Possesses oxidizing properties



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11. Announcements before the participants are dismissed:  
If your CERT class continues on the same day, take your break and return to this classroom.

Or

If your CERT class continues on another day (next week or next month) Your **Homework Assignment** is to read Unit Four: Disaster Medical Part 1

