



Essential Tips to Keep Your Family and Property Safe

# Home Fire Safety



# Introduction

- Fires can happen unexpectedly and cause significant damage to property and lives.
- Understanding fire safety measures is critical for prevention and preparedness.
- Be aware of Fire Danger Rating – Physical signage and also posted on the SVFD website ([www.SVFD.ca](http://www.SVFD.ca))



# Leading Causes of Residential Fires

- **Cooking Equipment:**

Cooking is the leading cause of house fires, accounting for nearly half of all residential fires. Unattended stoves, ovens, and grease fires are common culprits.

- **Heating Equipment:**

Space heaters, fireplaces, and furnaces can ignite nearby combustible materials. It's important to keep these devices away from flammable objects and to have them inspected regularly.

- **Electrical and Lighting Equipment:**

Faulty wiring, overloaded circuits, and malfunctioning electrical appliances can lead to fires.

- **Intentional Fires:**

Intentionally set fires contribute to a significant number of house fires.

- **Smoking Materials:**

Cigarettes, cigars, and other smoking materials can ignite furniture, bedding, or other flammable items if not properly extinguished.

- **Children Playing with Fire:**

Curiosity can lead children to play with matches or lighters, causing accidental fires.

- **Flammable Liquids:**

Improper storage or handling of flammable liquids like gasoline, paint, or cleaning supplies can result in fires.



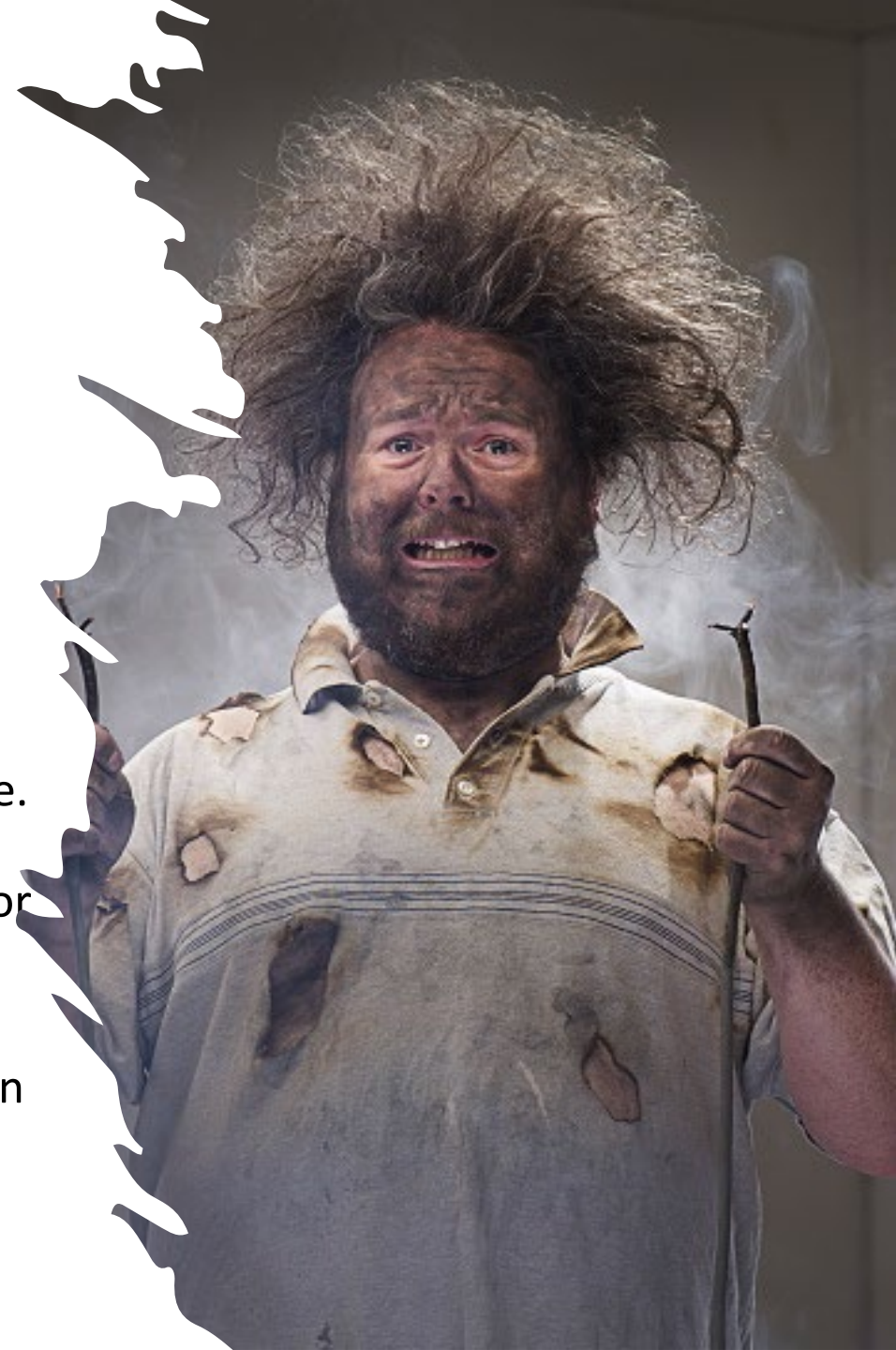


# Cooking

- Be careful when cooking, especially with hot oil
- Don't leave cooking unattended
- Avoid deep fryers for large food items (i.e. Turkey's)
- Avoid excessive alcohol consumption while cooking.

# Electrical Wiring

- Don't overload electrical circuits
- Have all electrical work performed by a certified professional
- Have all "old wiring" inspected
- Beware of where wires run in your house.
- Inspect electrical cords and appliances for damage
- Avoid exceeding the power capacity of an extension cord





# Space heaters

Give space heaters space.

# Lithium Ion Batteries

- smart phones, laptops, tablets, scooters, e-bikes, hoverboards, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars
- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space. – Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- How many times do you think you have dropped your smart phone or tablet? Think about the impact that could have on the lithium-ion battery that is powering your device.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.



# Lithium Ion Batteries

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Use only the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Use only the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).



# Flammable materials

- Keep flammable materials away from heat sources.
- Store in a fireproof container if possible.



# Spontaneous Combustion

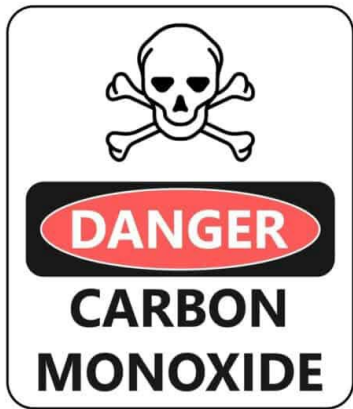
- Some paints and oils generate heat when they oxidize.
- Some generate heat when they dry through an exothermic reaction.



# Smoke Alarms

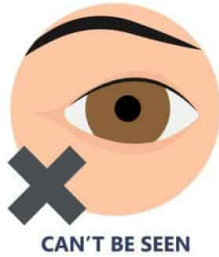
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.
- Test them monthly and replace the batteries if they aren't working.
- New alarms don't have replaceable batteries but last for a long time.





# CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

THE BODY REPLACES THE OXYGEN IN RED BLOOD CELLS WITH CARBON MONOXIDE THIS CAN LEAD TO SERIOUS TISSUE DAMAGE AND CAN BE LIFE THREATENING



PERCENTAGE CO IN BLOOD



## COMMON SYMPTOMS

LIFE THREATENING IF PATIENT IS NOT REMOVED FROM SOURCE OF CO

UNCONSCIOUSNESS, SEIZURE

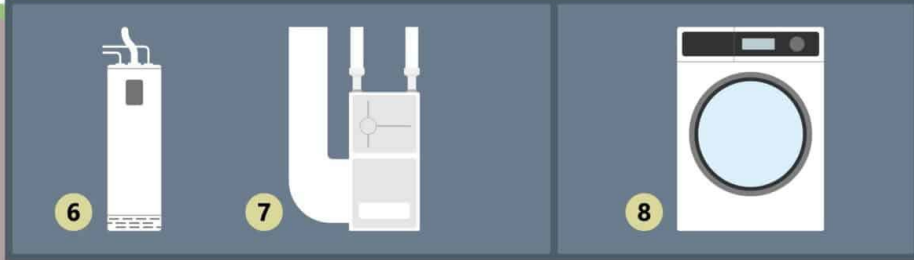
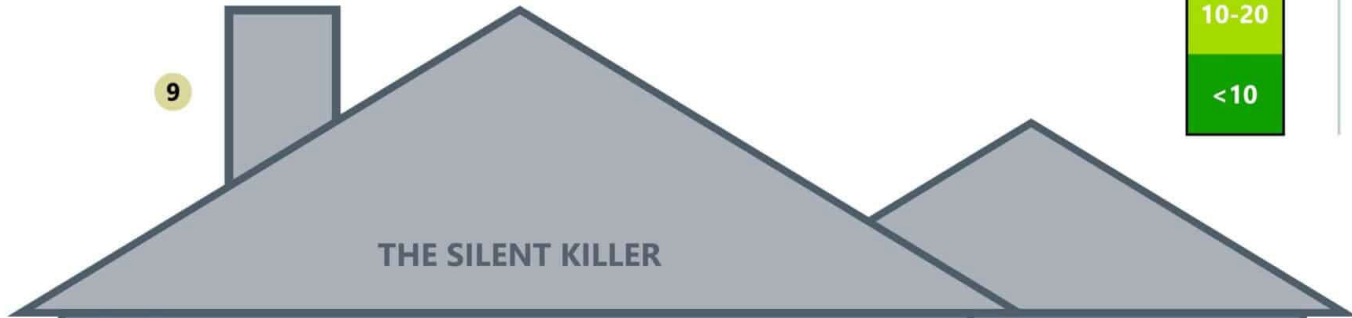
POUNING HEADACHE, CONFUSION, SHORTNESS OF BREATH, INCREASING BURRED VISION, UNCONTROLLED, FEELING LOSS OF BALANCE

BREATHING DIFFICULTY, IMPAIRED JUDGMENT, INCREASING DROWSINESS, HEADACHE, BLURRING OF VISION

HEADACHE, RESPIRATORY RATE INCREASES, SLIGHT DROWSINESS

SLIGHT HEADACHE

NO SYMPTOM



## COMMON SOURCE OF CARBON MONOXIDE

- |                    |  |                                   |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> FIREPLACE | <b>4</b> BARBEQUE                      | <b>7</b> FURNACE                  |
| <b>2</b> STOVE     | <b>5</b> PORTABLE FUEL FIRED GENERATOR | <b>8</b> DRYER                    |
| <b>3</b> CAR       | <b>6</b> WATER HEATER                  | <b>9</b> BLOCKED VENTS OR CHIMNEY |

# Fire Extinguishers



Remember Expiry Dates!



# Fire Blankets



- Made of non-combustible material
- Cut-off oxygen supply to the fire

# Fire escape plan

- Create a fire escape plan with your family
- Have a meeting place outside
- Practice it twice a year.



# Landscaping




- Leave at least six feet of clearance between your home and combustible vegetation
- Plant fire-resistant vegetation if possible
- Prune properly and regularly
- Remove deadwood from trees and shrubs
- Move any combustibles like firewood away from your home.

# Tips to FireSmart Your Home


Taking action to FireSmart your property will dramatically decrease the risk of wildfire damaging your home. The best part is, it's surprisingly easy to do.




Clean under your deck to remove any combustible material. Establish a 1.5 metre non-combustible zone around the perimeter of the house and deck.




Clean and maintain gutters and roofs. Keep decks and balconies clear of leaves and debris.




Keep grass and weeds cut below 10 centimetres.



Have a wildfire evacuation plan and make sure everyone in your household knows what to do.



Download the FireSmart home assessment and do a self-assessment of your home and property.




Hold sheds and other structures to the same standards as your home.




Relocate propane tanks 10-30 metres from your home, and keep combustible vegetation a minimum of 10 metres from propane tanks.



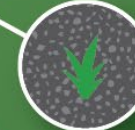
Move firewood and lumber 10-30 metres away from home.



Prune trees to create a two-metre clearance from the ground to the lowest branches.



Add non-combustible 3 millimetre screens to external vents (except dryer vents).

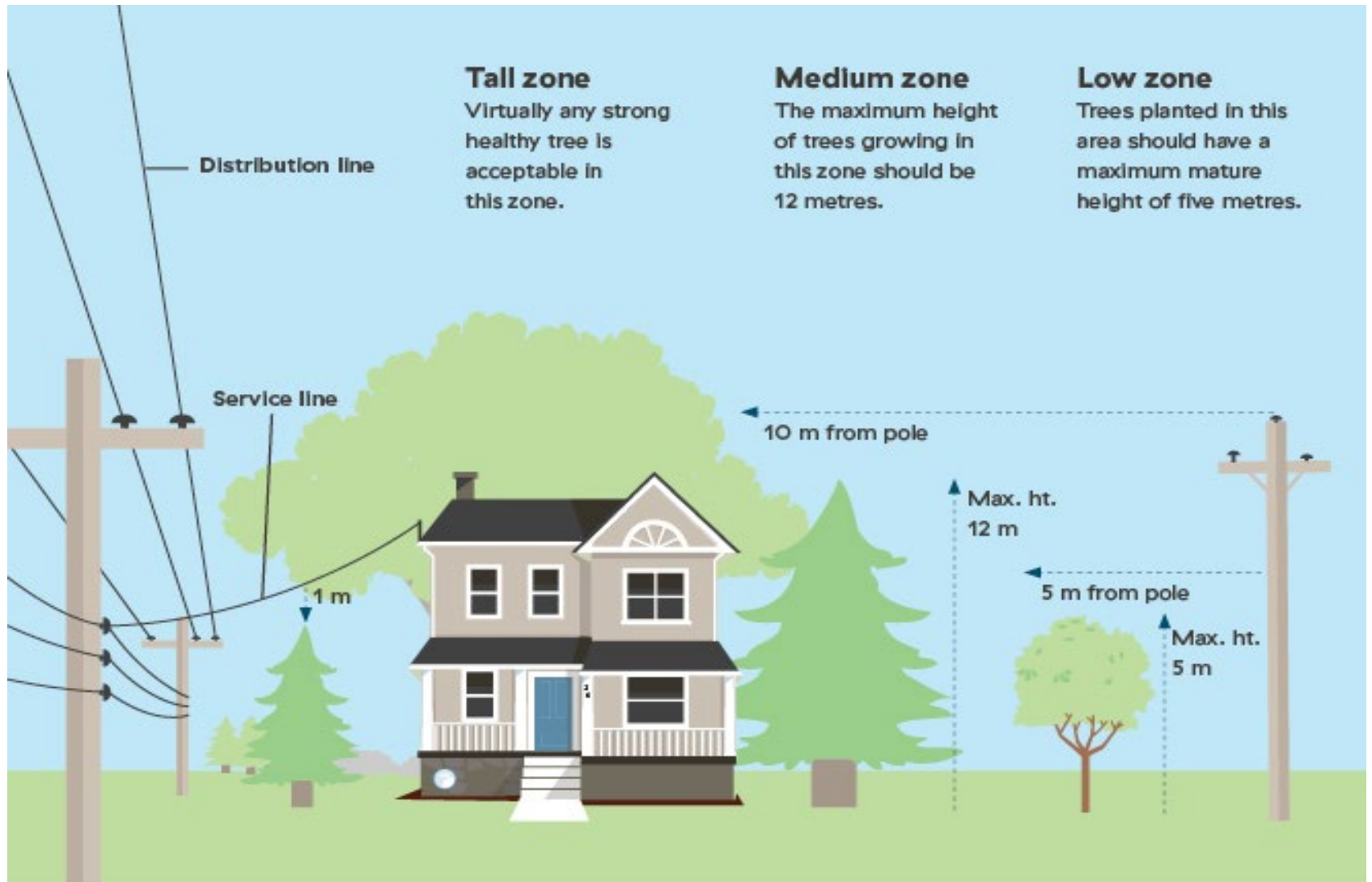


Reduce the flammability of your landscaping and plant wildfire resistant vegetation. Learn landscaping.

 BRITISH COLUMBIA  
**FireSmart**

Learn more at [FireSmartBC.ca](https://www FiresmartBC.ca)

# Trees and Power Lines



# Downed Power Lines

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- A downed line is a danger, stay back and dial 911
- Stay back at least 10 meters (33 feet). That's about the length of a city bus.
- electricity fans out throughout the ground, like when a pebble hits the water.
- If you are caught within 10 meters, ~~hop out~~ shuffle away until you are out of the danger area.
- Obey the directions you are given by the fire department. It could save your life.



# House Construction

- Fire resistive materials
- Composite siding
- Composite roofing materials
- No cedar shake roofs!



# Fire Risk Assessment

- Identify fire hazards, people at risk,
- Reduce or remove risks.
- Record your finding
- Prepare an emergency plan and provide training.



# During a Fire

1. STAY LOW TO  
AVOID INHALING  
SMOKE.

2. CHECK DOORS  
FOR HEAT BEFORE  
OPENING THEM.

3. USE YOUR ESCAPE  
PLAN TO LEAVE THE  
HOUSE QUICKLY  
AND SAFELY.

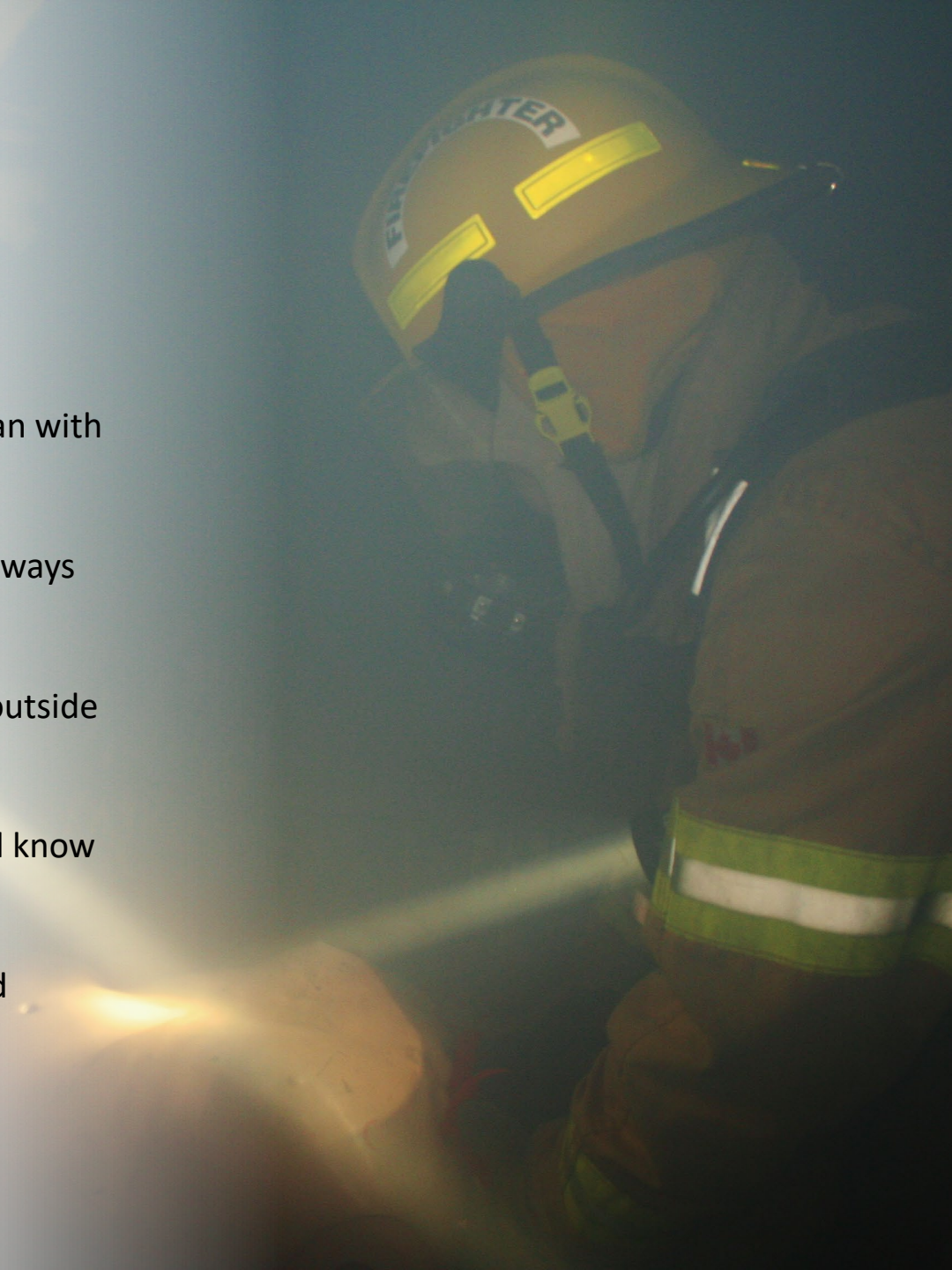
4. DO NOT RE-  
ENTER THE HOUSE  
FOR ANY REASON.

5. CALL EMERGENCY  
SERVICES ONCE YOU  
ARE SAFELY  
OUTSIDE.



# Emergency Preparedness

1. Develop and practice a fire escape plan with your family.
2. Ensure all family members know two ways to exit each room.
3. Establish a designated meeting spot outside your home.
4. Keep fire extinguishers accessible and know how to use them.
5. Educate children about fire safety and emergency procedures.



# Conclusion

- Fire safety starts with awareness and preparation. By taking preventive measures and knowing what to do during an emergency, you can protect your loved ones and your home.



# Questions?

