

# Fire Safety



# Fire Safety

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- Fires are a constant threat to any health care organization.
- Besides threatening the safety of patients/residents, visitors, and personnel, a fire may reduce the health care organization's ability to provide services.

For these reasons, it is essential that students know the proper method to prevent fires and be able to respond quickly and appropriately in the case of a fire.



# Fire Safety

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- Everyone has a role and responsibility in the event of a fire emergency. Roles may involve:
  - Rescuing patients/residents and others,
  - Assisting with moving them to safety,
  - Sounding the alarm, or
  - Just staying out of the way of firefighters and other designated emergency response personnel.



- ALL HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS must know the:
  - Health care organization's Fire Emergency Plan
  - Location of fire pull/call boxes
  - Location and proper use of a fire extinguisher
  - Places of safe shelter
  - Evacuation procedures





# Simple guidelines to reduce the possibility of a fire

- Remind patients/residents and visitors of the necessity of observing the smoking policy.
- Observe safety guidelines when using electrical equipment.
- Keep all chemicals, flammables and gases stored in their proper containers and use them appropriately.
- Be alert and aware of potential fire hazards and eliminate these hazards in the work area.
- If a fire is discovered, it is essential that you react quickly to avoid panic among patients/residents, visitors and personnel.

Always Supervised  
When In Use



# Not Allowed

(unless approved and tagged by electrical maintenance department)

- Space heaters
- Extension cords
- Candles
- Electric Holiday Decorations



# In the Event you hear a Fire Code or Fire Drill

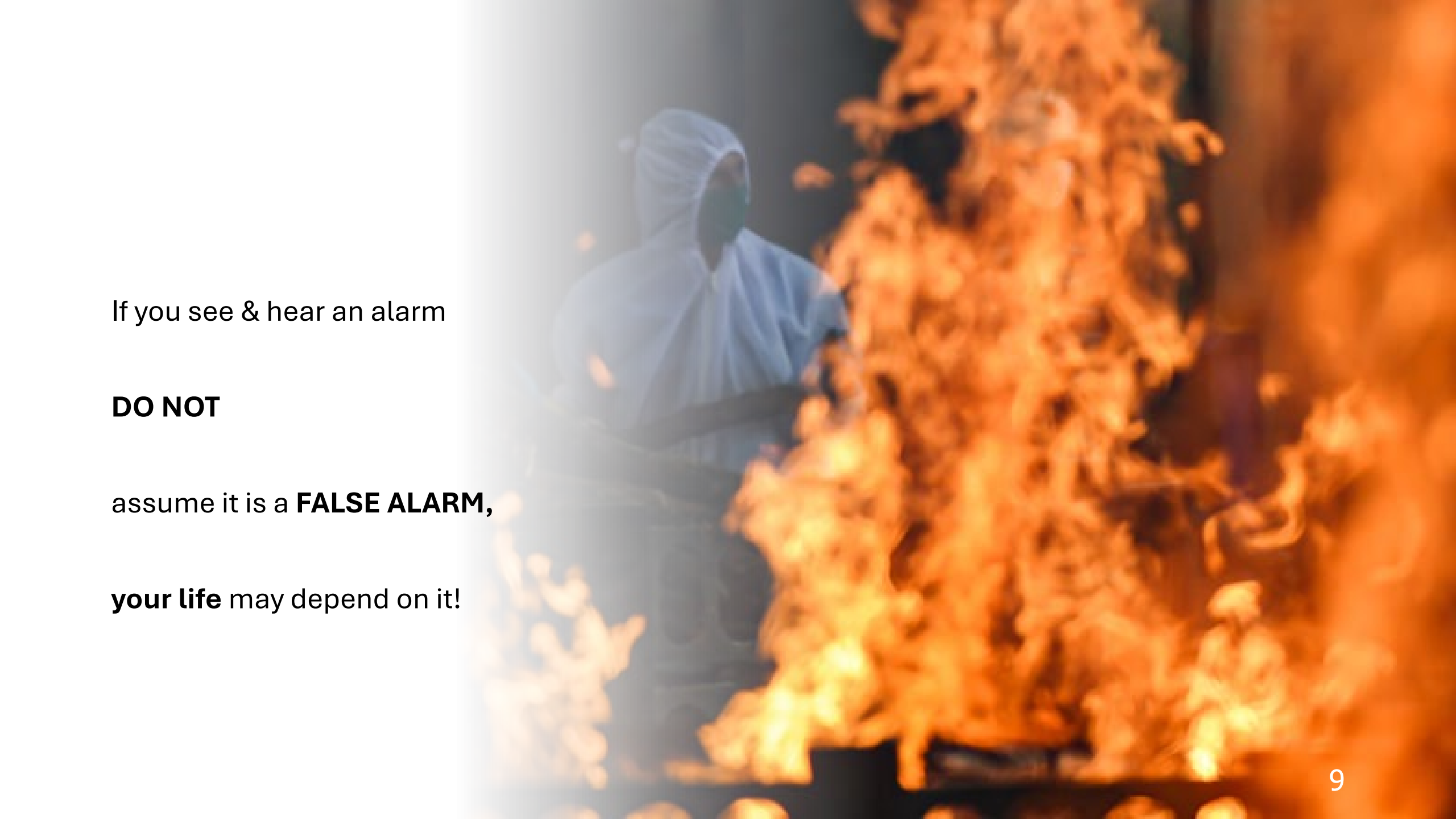
- Listen for the building location of the fire emergency.
- If in your building, listen for further announcements.

Follow the fire procedures for your area.

## **IMPORTANT:**

- NEVER open a door if it is hot to the touch.
- Do not use elevators. Only use the stairs.
- Keep all marked Fire Doors *closed* except when passing through.
- Clear corridors of all obstructions. Do not roam through the health care organization if a fire alarm is in progress.
- Listen for the all-clear code. Do not return to an area within the health care organization until you hear "All Clear". You may then resume your normal activity.



A firefighter in a white protective suit and hood stands next to a large, intense fire. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with thick smoke rising from it. The firefighter is holding a hose, and the background is dark and smoky.

If you see & hear an alarm

**DO NOT**

assume it is a **FALSE ALARM,**

**your life** may depend on it!

# What to do if you discover a FIRE

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## Priority

- Protect the Patient/Resident  
&
- Rescue ALL patients/residents  
in harm's way



# Fire Safety Acronyms

- Health care organizations use various acronyms to help employees and students remember what to do in the event of a fire.
- Know the process your clinical assignment uses.

## RACE:

R: Rescue/Remove  
A: Activate Alarm  
C: Confine/Contain  
E: Extinguish/Evacuate

## ARCE:

A: Activate Alarm  
R: Rescue/Remove  
C: Confine/Contain  
E: Extinguish/Evacuate



# What you do in a fire depends on the situation

For example, if you walk into a client's room and see fire, your first priority is to get that patient/client away from that immediate danger... rescue the client.

If, on the other hand, a fire starts in a place where there are no patient/clients), then sounds the alarm.

# Why do we close doors?

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*To compartmentalize and contain  
fire and smoke,  
and*

*To limit the spread of smoke and fire*





# Fire Extinguishers

- The most commonly used fire extinguisher is the ABC type and it can be used for most types of fires. If a specialty extinguisher is required in a particular area, you will be oriented to its use.
- REMEMBER:
  - Never use water on grease or electrical fires.
  - If you are not familiar with fire extinguishers and have not been trained in their use, DO NOT attempt to use them!



# FIRE EXTINGUISHER OPERATION

- **P.A.S.S. Method**
  - **Pull the pin:** This will allow you to squeeze the handle in order to discharge the extinguisher.
  - **Aim at the base of the fire.**
  - **Squeeze the handle:** This will release the pressurized extinguishing agent.
  - **Sweep side to side:** Cover the entire area that is on fire. Continue until fire is extinguished. Keep an eye on the area for re-ignition.



# Types of Evacuations

- Horizontal evacuation: is used first and consists of moving patients/residents down the corridor, through at least one set of fire doors to safe area.
- Vertical evacuation: consists of moving patients/residents down the stairs to a lower level of safety and ultimately out of the building.
  - **NEVER** use elevators to evacuate a fire area
  - Evacuate ambulatory patients/residents before non-ambulatory patients/residents
  - Move patient/resident charts with patients/residents
- Entire Building Evacuation: consist of moving patients/residents out of the building to a designated location.