Fire - Environmental Emergencies

Proper awareness of the priortity actions that should be taken during a fire are important for the best outcome of the patients. Fires in homes typically arise from smoking, especially careless smoking in bed. Fires in facilities are often electrical or during anesthesia procedures. Management can be easily remembered with the RACE mnemonic, which represents rescue, alarm, confine, and extinguish. It should also be emphasized to use fire exits, avoid elevators and manually ventilate patients.



PLAY PICMONIC

R.A.C.E
Race-lanes
RACE is a common mnemonic used for remembering the proper order of actions to be initiated in the event of a fire emergency.

Rescue
Rescuing patient from fire
You should rescue any clients who are in immediate danger. The nurse should prioritize patients to rescue always selecting the patients who are at the highest risk for injury from the fire first.

Alarm
Alarm
Activating the fire alarm and calling for help is the next step in dealing with a fire.

Confine
Confining the fire
Confine the fire as much as possible. This includes things like closing doors to rooms, closing fire doors on floors of buildings, placing wet towels along the base of doorways and turning off sources of oxygen and other flammable gases.

Extinguish
Extinguisher
Attempt to extinguish the fire if it can be done in a safe manner. Obtain a fire extinguisher, pull the pin and aim the extinguisher at the base of the fire using sweeping motions until the fire is controlled. Three varieties of extinguishers exist. Type A is for ordinary items like wood. Type B is used for flammable liquids, while Type C is used for electrical equipment.

P.A.S.S.
PASSing extinguisher after Pulling-pin, Aiming-at-base, sweeping Side-to-Side
A mnemonic for operating a fire extinguisher. P- Pull the pin. A- Aim at the base of the fire. S-Squeeze. S - Sweep from Side to Side until the fire is controlled.

Nursing Considerations

Fire Exits
Fire Exit used
Be aware of all fire exits and fire emergency evacuation plans. It is important to keep these areas clear from equipment and any clutter.

Do Not Use Elevators
Elevator Not Used
In the event of a fire, elevators should not be used.

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Manual Ventilation

Manually Ventilating

It is important to remember that patients on mechanical ventilators will need to be manually ventilated with a bag valve mask.

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