- The Red Cross responded to 74,000 disasters last year and 93% were fires.
- In July 2018 there were 28 wildfires burning at the same time in California.
- The CAMP Fire (Nov. 2018) is the deadliest fire in California history.
- 1,893,913 acres were burned in California in 2018.
Fires kill more Americans each year than all natural disasters combined; many victims are children under five and adults over 65.

Fires are a much smaller incident than a quake, but they happen every day in LA; If a fire happens in your home, it can be a deadly hazard.

Multiple fires occur after earthquakes, which can turn into a firestorm if not quickly controlled.
Fires at USC

- Several major fires at Fraternities, some with injuries
- Occasional fires in laboratories
- Never a fatality in USC-owned building
The role of CERT in fire safety:

- Put out small fires.
- Prevent additional fires.
- Shutoff utilities.
- Assist with evacuations.
The Fire Triangle

- Heat
- Fuel
- Oxygen
Fire Chemistry

Classes of fire:

- **A**: Ordinary combustibles
- **B**: Flammable and combustible liquids
- **C**: Energized electrical equipment
- **D**: Combustible metals
- **K**: Cooking Oils
Reducing Fire Hazards in Home and Workplace

- Avoid the “electrical octopus.”
- Don’t run cords under carpets.
- Replace broken or frayed cords.
- Maintain appliances.
- Remove combustibles
Reducing Fire Hazards in Home and Workplace

- Install a natural gas detector.
- Locate and label gas shutoffs.
- Install automatic earthquake gas shutoff valve.
Reducing Water Damage

- Know where to locate valves
- Recognize the valve type
- Shut the valve when you have determined there is no smoke or fire.
Reducing Fire Hazards in Home and Workplace

- Read labels.
- Use L.I.E.S. storage procedures:
  - Limit,
  - Isolate,
  - Eliminate,
  - Separate.
Types of Fire Extinguishers

- Water
- Dry chemical
- Carbon dioxide
- Specialized fire extinguisher
P.A.S.S

- Pull
- Aim
- Squeeze
- Sweep

Test the extinguisher before approaching any fire.
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.
Fire 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?
Fire Suppression Safety

DON’T
- Try to suppress large fires.
- Get too close.
- Fight it alone.
- Enter smoke-filled areas.
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
Identifying Stored Hazardous Materials
Identifying Stored Hazardous Materials

NFPA 704 Diamond - **White Quadrant**:
- **W** Shows unusual reactivity with water
- **OX** Possesses oxidizing properties
UN & NA Placards

**OXIDIZER**

5.1

1203

3
Greater than 1?

Remember!
All hazardous material placards are a stop sign for CERTs
FIRE RESPONSE

USC has never had a fire fatality
Basic Fire Procedure

1. SOUND THE ALARM by pulling the nearest pull station (or shouting “Fire”)
2. LEAVE THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY
3. CALL FOR HELP    UPC 213-740-4321
4. MEET AT OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY AREA
Response Roles

- **Building Evacuation Coordinator**
  - Act as building emergency director
  - Coordinate the evacuation assembly area
  - Meet arriving responders and provide info regarding evacuation status and details about the emergency

- **Floor Wardens**
  - Check your specific floor or area and ensure everyone evacuates in a fire
  - Check your floor as you evacuate to make sure everyone gets out
  - Close doors (if time allows)
  - Assist persons with disabilities
Assisting Disabled
Smoke Detectors

- Smoke detectors will sound only in your room.
- The smoke detector is your personal fire alarm that will wake you up.
- Never cover your smoke detector with a poster or wall hanging.
Fire Alarm System

- Activated at the pull station, will sound throughout the building.
- The alarm sends a signal to DPS and the Fire Department is summoned.
- Any intentional activation by a resident will result in expulsion from USC housing.
Fire Sprinkler System

- Most residential buildings are equipped
- Heads are activated by heat (165 degrees or more) from a fire.
- The automatic sprinkler system is the very best fire protection available.
- Sprinkler heads are easily broken by a tossed ball or by someone hanging something from the head. The cost of damage is the responsibility of the person who damaged the sprinkler (or parents).
Help Maintain Fire Safety

1. No candles
2. No halogen lamps or overloaded extension cords
3. Keep hallways clear
4. No tampering with fire equipment
Hands-On Fire Extinguisher Training