R.A.C.E

During a fire emergency, panic and confusion can easily overwhelm individuals, causing them to forget crucial elements of their organization's fire plan. While your workplace or healthcare team may have received training on the fire plan, it's common for important details to be forgotten in the heat of the moment. This is where the RACE acronym comes in. RACE stands for Remove, Alarm/Alert, Confine, and Extinguish/Evacuate, serving as a simple and memorable tool to navigate fire emergencies, even in times of extreme panic. Let's delve into each component of the RACE fire plan to gain a better understanding.

R - Remove/Rescue

The primary and most essential aspect of any Emergency Evacuation Plan is to ensure the safety of visitors, guests, and staff. This step should consistently be the initial action since fires have the potential to rapidly intensify, causing harm to individuals and property. Although there may be a temptation to immediately confront and extinguish the fire, prioritizing the evacuation of people must always be the utmost priority.

A - Alarm/Alert

After successfully evacuating individuals from the premises, the subsequent critical measure is to promptly notify external authorities and activate all internal alarm systems according to your organization's emergency evacuation plan:

- Call 911 immediately.
- If you have a manual call point or break glass alarm, or an intercom system, activate them as instructed.

C - Confine/Contain

After ensuring the safety of individuals, the subsequent step is to minimize the potential damage caused by the approaching fire. It is crucial to confine the fire, smoke, and hazardous combustibles within a specific area to the greatest extent possible. A useful method to prevent the spread of smoke is to close doors and windows, effectively restricting the oxygen supply to the fire. This containment strategy helps limit the fire's impact and reduces the risk to surrounding areas.

E - Extinguish/Evacuate

Does your team know the location of your fire extinguishers? They should be able to find the nearest equipment even if there's smoke and darkness. In accordance with AS3745, all this information should be found on the building's evacuation diagrams.