

SAFE USE OF FIRE TOOLS



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



SILVANUS

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IMPORTANT! INFORMATION!



This course is designed for the public **to raise awareness** about wildfire prevention, response, and recovery. It also covers important topics such as forest ecosystems and biodiversity. However, **completing this course does not qualify you for firefighting or first aid, such as CPR**. Engaging in such activities requires certified training by qualified experts, such as those from fire department services. Always **follow official guidelines** and seek professional instruction for emergency response skills.



When dealing with wildfires, citizens who may find themselves in a situation to use fire tools need to do so with extreme caution. The primary concern is safety, as improper use can exacerbate the fire or cause personal injury. Here's how citizens can use fire tools safely in the context of wildfire preparation or protection.



UNDERSTAND THE TOOLS

Research and training

Before using any fire tools, it's important to understand their purpose and operation. If possible, seek training from local fire authorities or watch accredited online tutorials.



Common fire tools

These include shovels, rakes, axes, chainsaws, and fire extinguishers.

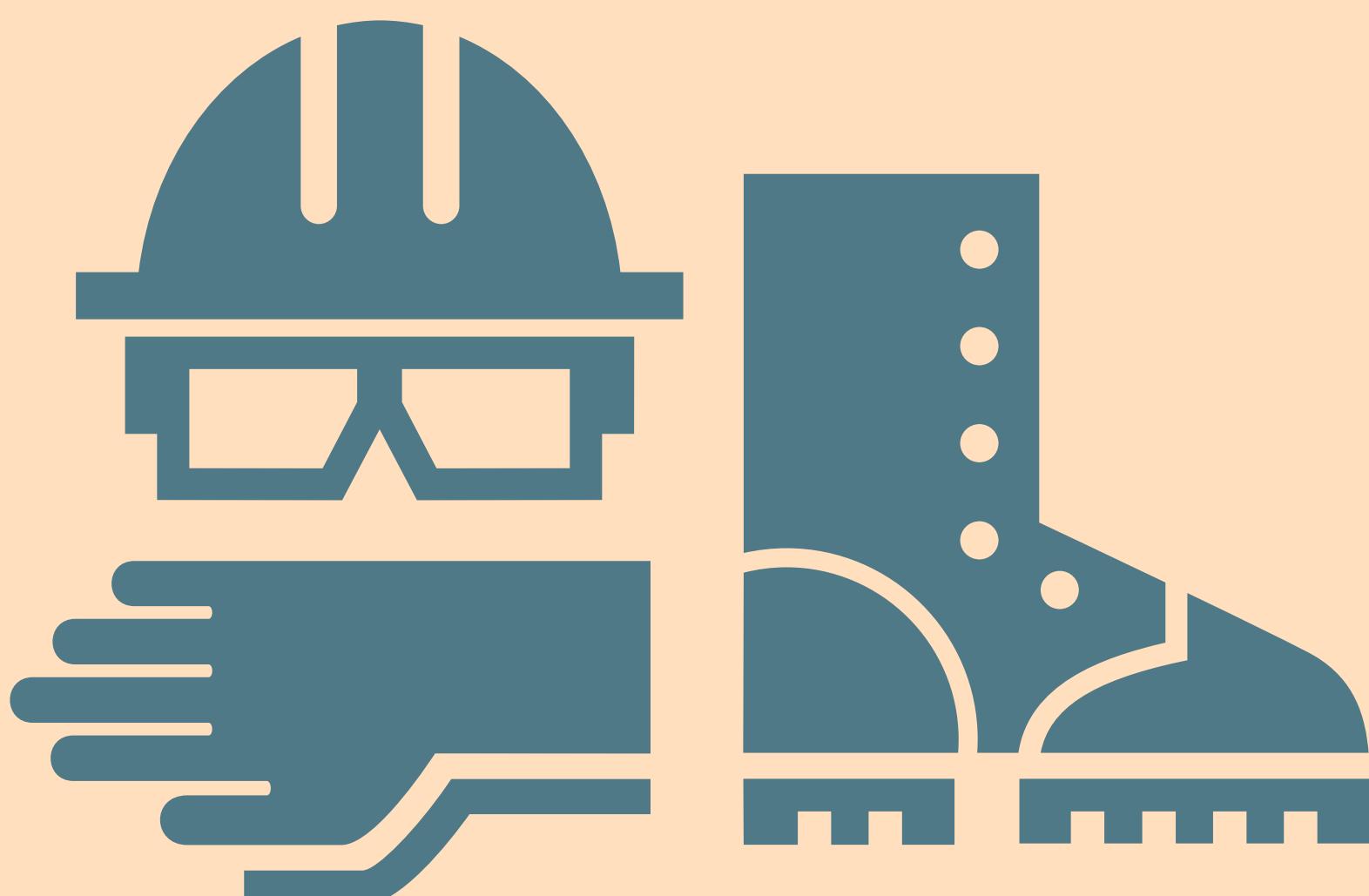
Each tool has a specific use, such as creating firebreaks or cutting down potentially flammable vegetation.



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Wear protective clothing

Use heavy-duty gloves, long sleeves, long trousers, sturdy boots, and eye protection. This equipment protects against burns, flying debris, and other hazards.



Respiratory protection

Wear a mask or respirator to avoid inhaling ash, smoke, or dust, especially during intense physical activity.



PREPARATION AND MAINTENANCE OF TOOLS

Inspect tools before use

Ensure that all tools are in good working condition. Check for loose parts, dull blades, or any damage that could make the tool unsafe.



Proper maintenance

Clean and sharpen tools
regularly to keep them effective
and safe to use.



SAFE OPERATION

Follow instructions

Use each tool according to its intended purpose and follow the manufacturer's guidelines.



Stay aware of your surroundings

Be conscious of others around you and maintain a safe distance to prevent accidents.



Avoid working alone

If possible, work in teams or have someone nearby in case of an emergency. This is particularly important when using power tools like chainsaws.



Creating Defensive Space

Use tools to create a buffer zone around your property by removing dead plants, grass, weeds, and fire-prone vegetation.

This space can help slow the fire's spread and reduce its intensity.



Proper disposal

Gather and dispose of debris and cut vegetation safely to prevent them from becoming potential fuel for the fire.



HYDRATION AND BREAK

Stay hydrated

Always carry water and drink regularly, especially when working in hot conditions or engaging in physically demanding activities.



Take regular breaks

Manage fatigue by taking frequent breaks in a shaded or cooler area to avoid heat exhaustion or heat stroke.



USING FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Know the operation

Make sure you understand how to use a fire extinguisher (remember the PASS technique: Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep). Keep extinguishers accessible around your property.



Choose the right type

Ensure you have the appropriate type of extinguisher for different kinds of fires that might occur in your area (e.g., Class A for wood, paper; Class B for oils and fuels).

