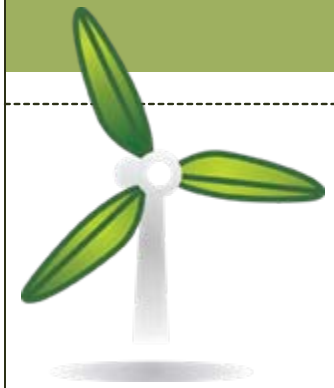
GREEN FIRE PREVENTION

EARTH DAY 2010

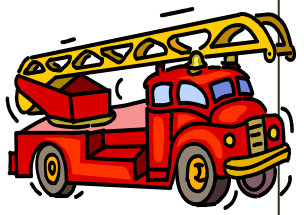
What does it mean to be green?



SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES
WASTE PREVENTION
NOT PRODUCING GREEN HOUSE GASES

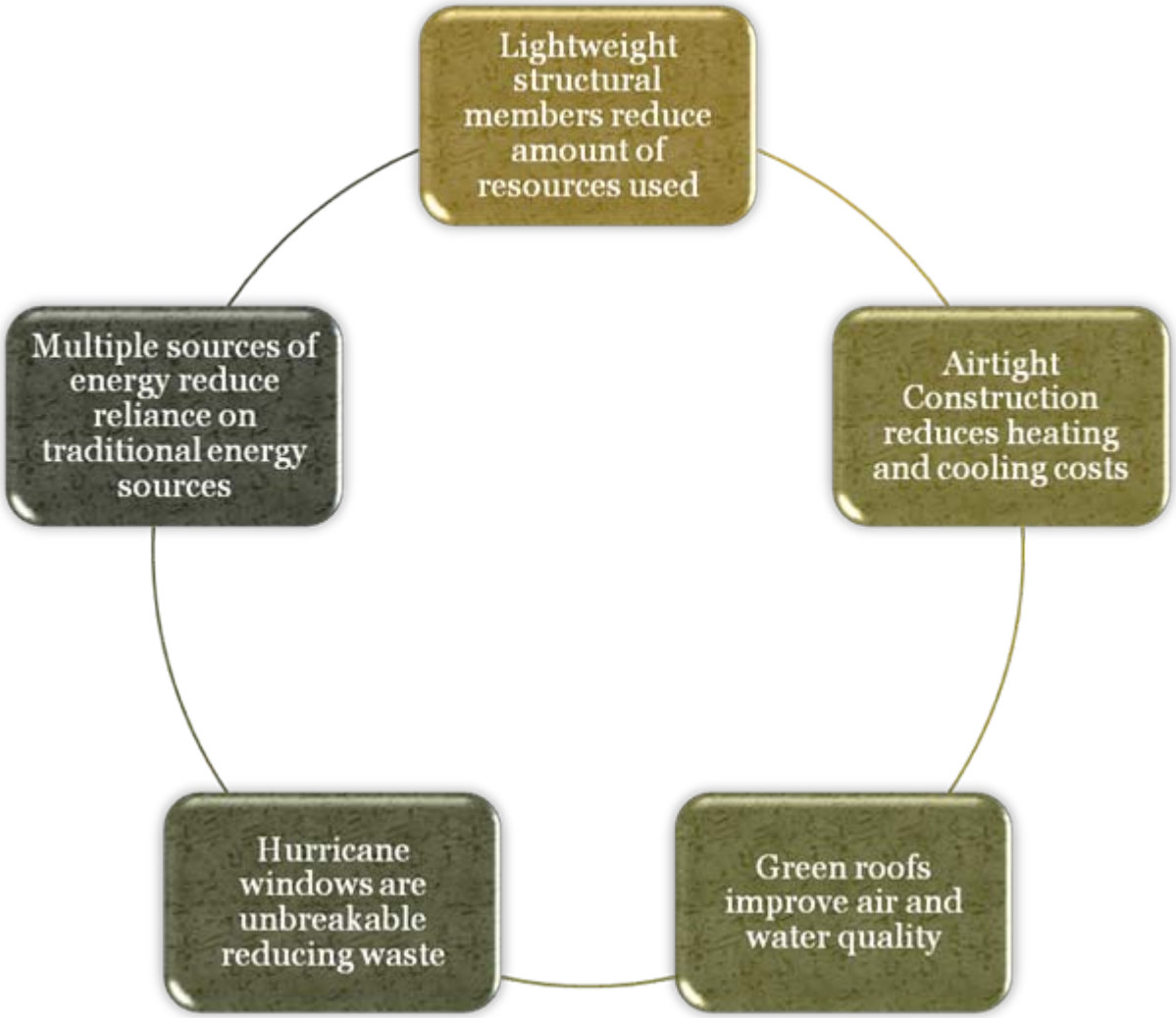
BEING SMART WITH THE RESOURCES WE'VE GOT!

But what does this have to do with the fire department?

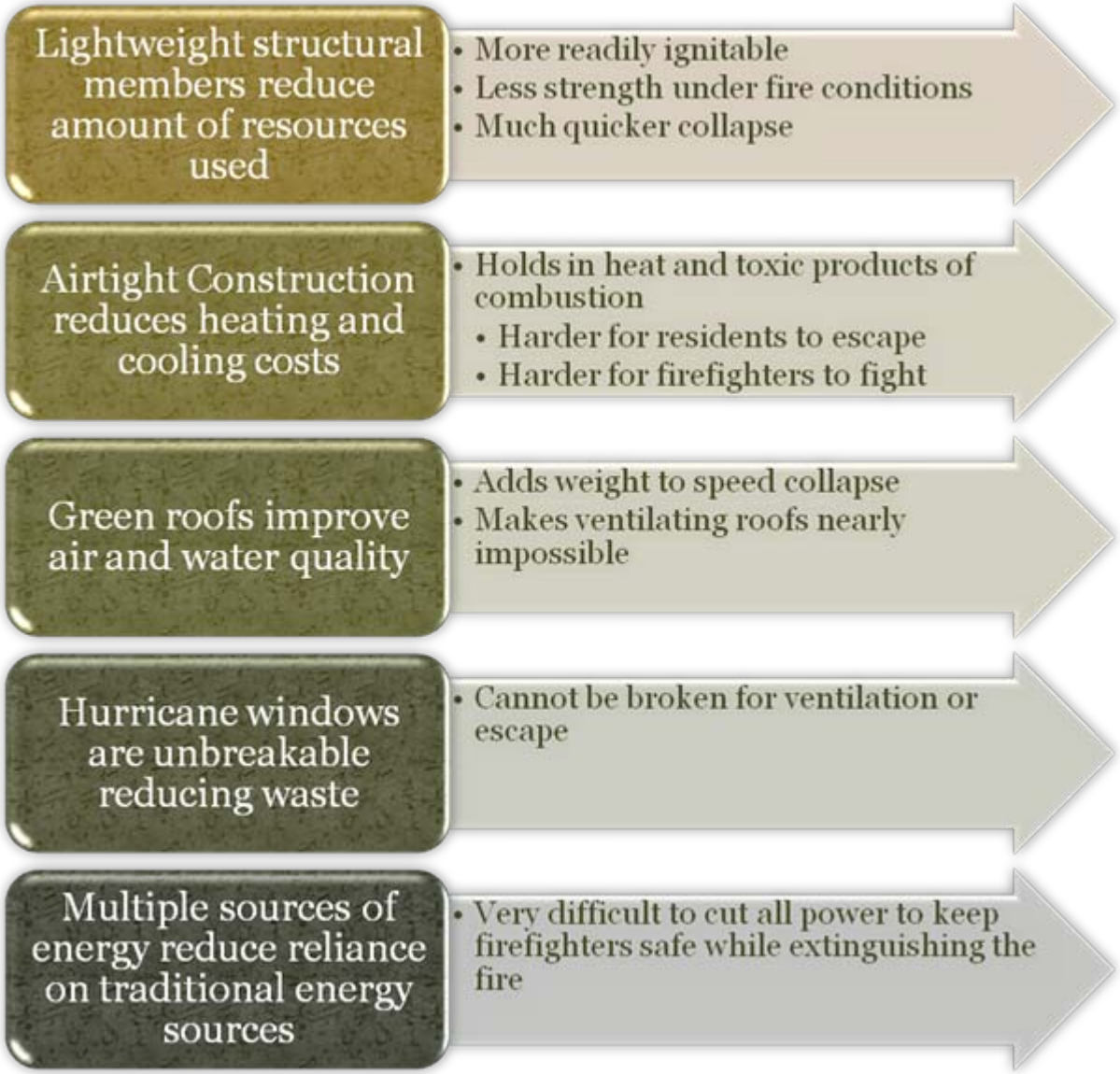


- *Many of the new advances in energy conservation and "green construction" take advantage of highly engineered products. While these are great at reducing construction waste, cutting costs, and using energy more efficiently many don't take the potential for fire into account.*
- *In 2008 3,320 civilians were killed in fires, 84% of these occurred at residences. Fire is a very real threat in the United States and some research estimates that each of us will experience at least one fire in our lives*

Let's look at Green Construction



What happens when fire is added to the equation?



Fire is not Green

- Destroys buildings
  - Wasting building materials
- Uses lots of water to extinguish
  - A single fire hose can use over 100 gallons per minute
  - All that water mixes with toxic products of combustion and runs off into storm drains and other waterways
- Produces large amounts of carbon dioxide
  - Lots of toxic gases as well
- Aside from environmental impact fire kills and injures thousands of people every year, costing millions of dollars in damages

Let's Follow the logic

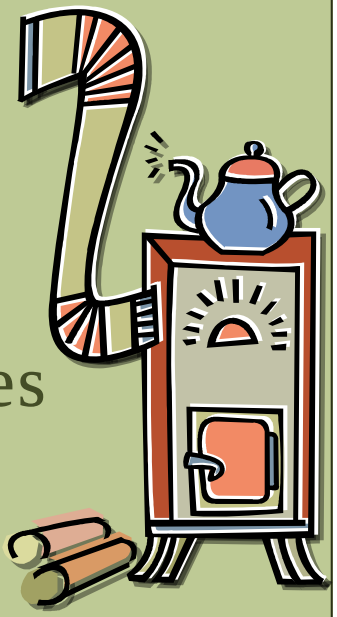
Fire is not green

Most fires are preventable by making fire smart decisions

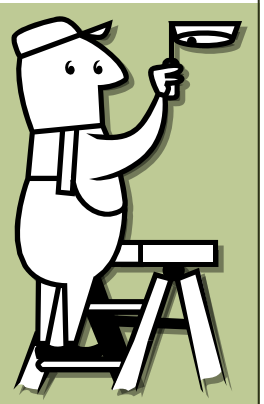
Making fire smart decisions is vital to living a green lifestyle

How can we prevent fires?

- Never leave cooking unattended
- Take care of fuel-burning appliances
- Use electricity wisely
- Be careful when handling fire



What if a fire still happens?



- Smoke detectors give advance notice
  - Keep batteries current
  - Replace smoke alarms every 10 years
- Make a family escape plan
  - Have “home fire drills” to practice
- Know your fires and fire suppression choices
  - Know what can be put out with water, what can be snuffed out, and what needs an extinguisher
- Be prepared with Fire Sprinklers!

Did you say Fire Sprinklers?

AREN'T THEY EXPENSIVE?

DON'T THEY WASTE WATER?

DON'T THEY RUIN EVERYTHING WITH WATER DAMAGE?

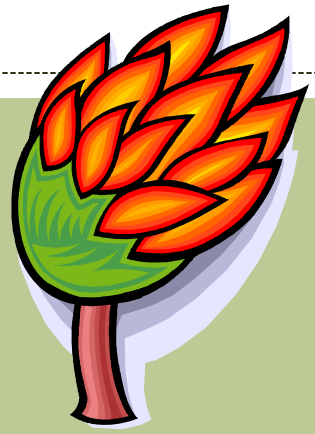
Myth vs. Fiction

- Sprinklers are expensive
  - Sprinklers in a new home cost about the same as a carpet upgrade
- Sprinklers waste water
  - Sprinkler's use upwards of 90% less water to extinguish a fire than a fire department would
- Sprinklers ruin everything
  - Only the sprinklers nearest to the fire will operate, actually reducing damage
  - By containing the fire earlier building can be saved

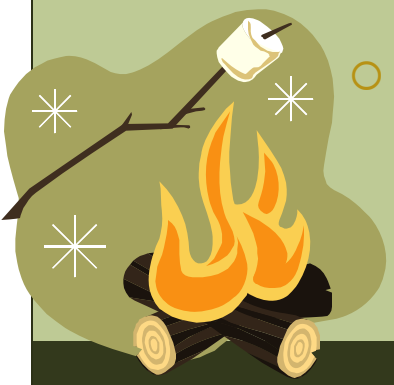
Sprinklers: A Responsible Choice

- Installing a residential fire sprinkler system will cut greenhouse gases by 98% in case of a fire.
- Damage could be cut from 100% loss to less than 5%
- Total water usage could be cut by upwards of 90%
- They will also give your family one more step of protection between them and fire
- All this and they will probably save you money on your homeowners insurance

What about the Wildland Fires?



- Smokey the Bear is right….only you can prevent forest fires
  - Always keep a bucket of water or a fire extinguisher handy when using fire outside
  - Make sure camp and cooking fires are completely extinguished
  - Properly dispose of ashes and embers from fireplaces/woodstoves
  - Clear away all combustible materials while grilling or having a fire



Questions?

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