



East Spring Secondary School

Power of Positive Energy (PPE)

Student Goals/Outcomes for Excellence & Success

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Date: 12 Feb 2014

PPE Sharing

Good morning Mrs. Jalil, Mrs. Mohinder, Mr. Chan, teachers and fellow East Springians. My name is Nur Zakiah from 4N2 and I'm the President of the NE Ambassadors. Total Defence Day is marked annually on February 15 in [Singapore](#) to commemorate the anniversary of the [surrender of the colonial Singapore to the Japanese](#) on February 15, 1942, hence marking the start of 3 years and 8 months of [Japanese Occupation](#). Total Defence day is something that we have experienced for many years and this year is no different --- we commemorate it by sampling war-time rations, hearing stories of how people survived and how Singapore was protected but do you know that there is more to it than just commemorations? As all of us would know by now, total defence encompasses 5 pillars; Military defence, civil defence, economic defence, social defence and psychological defence. Today i will be focusing on just one aspect --- civil defence.

Civil Defence complements and supports the other defence components of the nation's Total Defence. Civil Defence provides for the safety and basic needs of the whole community so that life may go on as normally as possible during a crisis. It involves training the civilian population – average people like you and I – in rescue work, evacuation, first aid and damage control. Civil Defence aims to produce a crisis-ready civilian population familiar with procedures for survival and protection, and with arrangements for relief services and emergency supply of critical items like blood, water and food. The knowledge and assurance that loved ones are cared for will boost the morale of our citizen-soldiers fighting at the frontline and greatly increase our chances of survival as a nation.

Most of us, when we hear the term 'Total Defence', we may think that is the job of Singapore's armed forces and political leaders. But realistically speaking, can a few thousand people ensure the survival of 5.4 million? For example the Litte India riot, which happen last year, December 8. If no one had alerted the police and the Singapore Civil Defence Force, one can just imagine how much more serious it would be. If not for certain alert and kind shopkeepers, who reacted quickly sheltered passers-by from the rioters. We might have seen more deaths and casualties.

We do not need major emergencies to happen to us before we think about doing something to help. All major emergencies begin small, so start noticing your surroundings for that one person behaving suspiciously or things that seems out of the ordinary. You could end up saving one or more innocent lives.

Because you played your part. Thank you.