



Bushfire Safety



Li'l Larikkins Bushfire Safety – Program Introduction

Welcome to the Li'l Larikkins Bushfire Safety program.

The Li'l Larikkins Bushfire Safety program has been developed to help lower primary, middle primary and upper primary students understand fire and the importance of bushfire preparation and safety both at school and at home.

This forms part of the larger Li'l Larikkins program which is designed to make primary-aged children more aware of what they and their families can do to better prepare in the event of natural hazards. More information about the SES Natural Hazards Li'l Larikkins program can be found on the Australian Council of State Emergency Services website www.ses.org.au.

What's included in the program?

To assist you to deliver this program we have provided:

- A document for teachers containing bushfire safety background information about fire and bushfire safety.
- A version of the bushfire safety teacher background information for students.
- Eight short (30 second) entertaining videos containing key bushfire safety messages. These are available on Vimeo, but direct links can be found in the lesson plans.
- Lesson plans and accompanying activity sheets to support each of the eight videos. These are available for three learning levels: lower primary (F-2), middle primary (3-5) and upper primary (6-7).
- Additional, general cross-curricular lessons and activity sheets that can be used to extend your bushfire safety program. These have been targeted toward middle primary students but are designed to be flexible enough for you to adapt for older and younger students.

The materials are available on the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council website www.afac.com.au and may also be available on your state or territory fire agency website (these are listed at the end of this document).

Using the program

A good place to start the program is by reading the background information. This will provide you with some basic information so you can teach about bushfire safety. There is a version of the background information written for teachers and one for students.

It is also important to familiarise yourself with your state or territory fire agency website. As this Li'l Larikkins Bushfire Safety program is a national program, much of the background information has been generalised to cater for all states and territories. However, it is important that you are aware of fire information specific to your area.

Videos and lessons

There are eight videos included in this program. They follow the adventures of Amy, Trev, Jimmy and their animal friends who live in a small outback town. In each video these animated characters learn some key bushfire safety tips.

Each video in the program is accompanied by a lesson plan (which are provided in lower, middle or upper primary versions), activity sheet/s and some optional extra activities.

You can teach the lessons sequentially to form a complete unit of work or simply select the topics that are applicable to your context.

The focus of each topic is outlined below and the order of the lessons is a suggested sequence only:

- **Raking up Twigs and Leaves**

The video explores the importance of clearing vegetation and rubbish away from homes and other buildings.

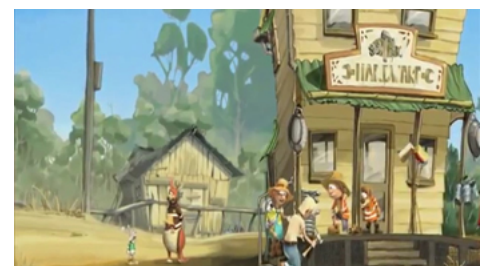
The lesson to support this video encourages students to think about how to keep their yard tidy, all year round, but particularly during fire season. It also introduces students to the concept of fuel and embers.



- **What's a Spot Fire?**

The video introduces the idea of spot fires and how they can be started by sparks and embers.

During the accompanying lesson students will conduct a 'spot fire audit' of their school grounds and try to identify areas that may contribute to spot fires (dry vegetation, equipment that causes sparks etc.) and where embers may get trapped. They also consider ways to extinguish spot fires and how they can help with this.



- **Off to the Tip**

The video shows the children finishing their preparation for bushfire season and discussing the dangers of leaving piles of leaves and branches lying around the yard.

The supporting lesson focuses on various hazards around the yard and how they can be managed. Students will apply what they learn in this lesson to their own yard.



■ Accidents Happen

The video explains that fires can start as a result of accidents, so you should be cautious and think before you act.

This lesson has several options: it can focus on barbecues, campfires or a combination of both. It focuses on creating safe places for recreational activities that involve fire, thinking before you act, and how accidents can cause bushfires.



■ Preparing for an Emergency

The video discusses having a 'box' prepared with items that you want to take with you in the event of a bushfire threat.

The lesson focuses on the importance of leaving early and introduces the concept of a bushfire survival plan. It also discusses what the students would like to have packed to take with them if they need to leave early and reinforces the difference between needs and wants.



■ Emergency Batteries

The video reinforces the importance of having spare charged batteries in the event of an emergency.

The lesson introduces the idea of an Emergency Kit that includes items which are needed in the event of a bushfire emergency. It also considers power supply for emergency items (e.g. batteries, solar power etc.) in the event that electricity is not available.



■ Know the School Plan

The video shows the children discussing the importance of knowing their school bushfire plan and passing this information on to their parent/carer.

During the lesson, students will review, evaluate and become familiar with their school's emergency bushfire plan. They will be encouraged to inform their parents/ carers about the plan.



■ Total Fire Ban

The video talks about activities that can and cannot be undertaken on a Total Fire Ban day.

In this lesson students will investigate which activities are banned or restricted in their area on Total Fire Ban days. They will also discuss the Fire Danger Rating system and how this works to inform people how bad a bushfire that starts on that day might be.



Australian curriculum

The lower, middle and upper primary activities in each lesson are aligned to the following Australian curriculum learning areas:

Lesson	Learning areas
Raking up Twigs and Leaves	Geography, Health and Physical Education and English.
What's a Spot Fire?	Geography, Health and Physical Education, English and Science.
Off to the Tip	Geography, Health and Physical Education and English.
Accidents Happen	Geography, Health and Physical Education and English.
Preparing for an Emergency	Geography, Health and Physical Education and English.
Emergency Batteries	Geography, Health and Physical Education, English and Science.
Know the School Plan	Geography, Health and Physical Education and English.
Total Fire Ban	Geography, Health and Physical Education, English and Science.

Cross-curricular lesson ideas

We have provided some extra general cross-curricular lesson ideas and activity sheets that you may wish to use in a bushfire safety program. They are not specifically linked to the videos, but can be used in conjunction with the video lesson plans. These lessons are written for middle primary students, but can be easily adapted for lower or higher year levels.



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Australasian Fire and Emergency
Service Authorities Council

Where can I go for extra help or information?

It is important to understand fire information specific to your location. To find this information visit your state or territory fire agency website (listed below). You can also involve members of your local community to participate in the program. This could include people from the local bushfire service or community members who have experience with bushfire preparation and safety.

- ACT Rural Fire Service
esa.act.gov.au/actrfs
- Country Fire Authority (CFA)
www.cfa.vic.gov.au
- Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service
www.pfes.nt.gov.au/Fire-and-Rescue.aspx
- NSW Rural Fire Service
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)
www.qfes.qld.gov.au
- South Australian Country Fire Service
www.cfs.sa.gov.au
- Tasmania Fire Service
www.fire.tas.gov.au
- WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
www.dfes.wa.gov.au

Feedback

We welcome your feedback on the Li'l Larikkins Bushfire Safety program. Visit the AFAC website www.afac.com.au/research/community/education to participate in a quick survey.