



## Bushfire Safety



# Know the School Plan – Lower Primary

## Introduction

The 'Know the School Plan' safety message explores the importance of knowing and remembering the school's emergency bushfire plan.

There is always the possibility of being at school when a bushfire threatens. Therefore, it is extremely important for students to know their home *and* school emergency plans. The video illustrates how family members should also be up to date with any school emergency policy. This is also a good chance for the school to revisit its emergency plan.

It is recommended that you read the 'Background Information For Teachers' before undertaking this lesson.

## Links to Australian Curriculum

### Geography

- Understanding that environments are special to people and animals and we need to look after them.
- Recognising the impact that bushfires and other natural disasters have on families, environments and communities.
- Developing ideas about how to prepare and respond to natural disaster events.

### Health and Physical Education

- Identify, plan and practise strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing of self and others in various situations.

### English

- Accessing relevant prior knowledge or personal experiences to make meaningful connections to events, issues and ideas in a text.
- Sharing ideas and points of view relating to a text.



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## Learning outcomes

Participating in this lesson will help students to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Students will discover what an emergency bushfire plan is and the importance of having emergency plans in place at home and at school.
- Students will learn about the key points of their school's current emergency bushfire plan, and identify safe areas in their school.

## Resources

You will need:

- 'Know the School Plan' safety message video <http://vimeo.com/31114485> (running time: 30 sec)
- a copy of your school's current emergency bushfire plan (if you do not have one, use the school's general emergency plan)
- interactive whiteboard (IWB)
- copies of a school map
- coloured pencils
- **'Our School Bushfire Plan'** activity sheet. This needs to be completed and photocopied for each student by the classroom teacher prior to the lesson.

## Lesson steps

As a class, watch the video 'Know the School Plan' <http://vimeo.com/31114485>

Discuss:

- What was the video about?
- What do you think a school emergency bushfire plan is?
- Why is it important that students tell their parents about the school emergency bushfire plan?



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Students to share their experiences of school drill procedures (whether practised or real). Why do we practise these drills? Explain that drills are important as they help us remember what to do in an emergency. Having a school emergency bushfire plan does the same thing – it reminds us of what needs to be done in a bushfire emergency. Ask students if they have an emergency bushfire plan at home. If so, do they know what it is? If not, encourage students to ask their parents/carers to find out.

As a class, discuss some relevant and age-appropriate points of the school emergency bushfire plan. Ensure that you discuss the difference between an emergency inside the school buildings and one outside the school.

Walk around the school and identify the class assembly point/s where students need to meet in the event of an emergency. When back in class, students to colour code two copies of the school map: one for an evacuation scenario (when the fire is inside the building) and one for an invacuation scenario (when the fire is outside the building and you must shelter inside). Use one colour to indicate their classroom and a different colour for the assembly point/s. Look at the school map and identify areas that are 'out of bounds', particularly in an emergency. Use a third colour to indicate these areas. Use a fourth colour to highlight the route from your classroom to the assembly point.

Provide students with a copy of the '**Our School Bushfire Plan**' sheet (completed prior to this lesson). Students can illustrate some of the key points on the sheet before taking it home and showing it to all family members.

As a homework task, encourage students to create a bushfire survival plan with their family. To help families undertake this task with their children, there is a fantastic e-book resource called 'Making a Bushfire Survival Plan? Involve your Kids' at [www.bushfirecrc.com](http://www.bushfirecrc.com). You may wish to email this link to the families. There are also templates available on fire agency websites that can assist with this activity.

## Further activities

Here are some suggested extra activities to extend the students' learning.

- Students to create their own information brochure or poster to remind families of their school bushfire plan.
- As a class (or whole school) practise the school's bushfire emergency procedure. Perhaps even involve the parents/carers.
- Invite someone from your local bushfire service to speak to the class about ways to prepare for bushfire season.



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### Extra resources

For more information visit your state or territory fire agency website:

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