



Bushfire Safety



Know the School Plan – Middle 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 important to people and animals.
- Recognising the impact that bushfires and other natural disasters have on 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 view their school's current emergency bushfire plan, identifying any areas that need reviewing.
- Students will identify key messages in their school's emergency bushfire plan, and use these to educate others.
- Students will begin to develop a Bushfire Survival Plan with their family.

Resources

You will need:

- 'Know the School Plan' safety message video <http://vimeo.com/31114485> (running time: 30 sec)
- copies of your school's current emergency bushfire plan (if you do not have one, use the school's general emergency plan)
- interactive whiteboard (IWB)
- 'Our School Bushfire Plan' activity sheet.

Lesson steps

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

Discuss:

- What were the key messages in the video?
- Did all the children remember their school emergency bushfire plan?
- Who remembered the school emergency bushfire plan and wanted to teach it to the other children?
- Why did the children want to tell their parents about the school emergency bushfire plan?

Ask students to discuss why knowing the school emergency bushfire plan (including invacuation and evacuation procedures) is important.

Students can share their experiences of school drill procedures (whether practised or real). Why do we practise these drills?



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In pairs, students read and evaluate the school's current emergency bushfire plan. They should take note of any areas that may need updating. Share findings with the class.

Students should then choose five key points from the plan, and prepare a presentation to give to younger students. The presentation must educate about the school's emergency bushfire plan in a way that is easy to understand and remember. Students can choose a song, rap, poem, or visual option to deliver their messages.

Using a copy of the school's current emergency bushfire plan, students, with the support of the teacher, complete the '**Our School Bushfire Plan**' activity sheet to take home and display for all family members to read.

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. 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 a form of communication to remind families of their school bushfire plan in the form of a newsletter, information brochure, school website update or parent information book.
- As a class (or whole school) have a practise run through of the school's bushfire emergency plan. 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.

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
- NSW Rural Fire Service
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/



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- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)
www.qfes.qld.gov.au/
- South Australian Country Fire Service
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/