



Bushfire Safety



Emergency Batteries – Upper Primary

Please note: You will need to complete the 'Preparing for an Emergency' lesson prior to undertaking this lesson.

Introduction

The 'Emergency Batteries' safety message explores the importance of being prepared and having spare, working batteries in the event of losing electricity in an emergency. This lesson also introduces the idea of an 'Emergency Kit' which is a pack that includes essential items that will be needed by a family during and in the days following a bushfire.

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

Links to Australian Curriculum

Geography

- Understanding that environments are important to people and animals and that we have a responsibility to look after them.
- 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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Science

- Energy from a variety of sources can be used to power objects.

Learning outcomes

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

- Students will discuss which items are necessary in an Emergency Kit.
- Students will be able to list essential items needed in a bushfire emergency that require power to operate.
- Students will identify items in their Emergency Kit that require regular maintenance and checking to ensure they are in good working condition.

Resources

You will need:

- 'Emergency Batteries' safety message video <http://vimeo.com/31114575> (running time: 30 sec)
- interactive whiteboard (IWB)
- 'Emergency Kit' information sheet
- 'Our Emergency Kit' activity sheet
- completed 'What Should I Pack?' activity sheet (from 'Preparing for an Emergency' lesson)
- 'Emergency Energy' activity sheet.



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Lesson steps

As a class, watch the 'Emergency Batteries' video <http://vimeo.com/31114575>.

Discuss:

- What were the key messages in the video?
- What was Trev doing wrong?
- Trev listed some important items that require batteries. What were they?
- Why is it important to have emergency batteries?
- What might happen if Trev uses the emergency batteries?

As a class, brainstorm the items you might *need* in an emergency. Remind students that this is different to the items that have sentimental value and you *want* to save. Ask students to think about communication, clothing, food, water, etc. Record the items. Discuss and debate individual items as a class.

Explain that these are the items that should be considered for inclusion in an 'Emergency Kit'. This kit is designed to help your family survive during (although reinforce the importance of leaving as early as possible) and in the days after a bushfire.

Provide students (individuals or small groups) with a copy of the '**Emergency Kit**' information sheet to read. Discuss the items on the sheet. Which items surprise students? Are there any items that they are unfamiliar with? Discuss these.

In small groups, ask students to rank the items on the '**Emergency Kit**' information sheet in order of importance for them or their families. Discuss choices with the rest of the class. Is there anything students would add to the list?

Each student is to take a copy of this sheet home and work with their family to complete the '**Our Emergency Kit**' activity sheet. If a student's family already has a kit, ask students to conduct an audit and decide if anything should be added or removed.

Using the '**Emergency Kit**' information sheet, ask students to identify items that require energy to work. How do these items get their power supply? Ask students to consider what they could do if the power was out and they couldn't run/recharge these items. It is important that someone in the family takes responsibility for checking the 'Emergency Kit' and making sure that all items are charged or have a power source available (e.g. charged batteries).

Students to complete the '**Emergency Energy**' activity sheet.



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Further activities

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

- Students to research different types of batteries (sizes, volts, etc) and how they work.
- Students to explore simple circuit systems found in torches.
- Students to research different types of energy.
- Students to conduct an internet search into how food can be used as a battery alternative.
- 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/
- 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/