



Bushfire Safety



Emergency Batteries – Lower 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 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.

Science

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



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Learning outcomes

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

- Students will be able to list items that should be included in an Emergency Kit.
- Students will identify items in their Emergency Kit that require an energy source to work.
- Students will understand that items in the Emergency Kit should be checked regularly 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
- items that require batteries or an alternative energy source (not electricity) to work (e.g. radio, torch, walkie talkies, mobile phone, GPS, etc.)
- 'Emergency Items' activity sheet.

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?



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As a class, brainstorm and record items you might *need* in an emergency. Discuss the difference between need and want. Ask students to think about the items of sentimental value that they discussed in the 'Preparing for an Emergency' lesson. These were items that students *wanted* to take, but are not necessarily essential in an emergency situation.

Display the '**Emergency Kit**' information sheet on an IWB. Discuss the items with students. Are there any that they are not familiar with or do not understand how they would be useful in an emergency?

Explain to students that many of the items on the list require a power source to operate them. Working as a class, identify these items. How would these items be used in an emergency? What source of energy do they need (electricity, battery, solar power, etc.)? What could happen if an energy source is not available?

Set up several stations around the room. Each station should have items from the list that require an energy source to operate (e.g. mobile phone, tablet, PC, various torches (battery, solar powered, wind up), battery operated radio etc.). In small groups students visit each station and complete the '**Emergency Items**' activity sheet.

After this activity discuss how we can make sure these items have the power they need if there is an emergency (e.g. making sure batteries are charged, having spare charging devices in an emergency box, etc.).

Further activities

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

- Provide each student with a copy of the '**Emergency Kit**' information sheet to take home. Ask students to work with their family to prepare their own survival kit.
- Students to research different types of batteries (sizes, volts, etc.) and how they work.
- Students to research different types of energy.
- 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/>



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- 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/