



Bushfire Safety



Know the School Plan – Upper 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 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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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.

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 your school does not have one, use the 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 who is aware of the school bushfire (or emergency) plan. What does it include? What are students expected to do in an emergency? Who is responsible for them and their safety in an emergency? Why do we need to know, understand and practise the emergency procedures? Ensure you talk about evacuation and invacuation procedures.



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- If your school has a bushfire emergency plan:
In pairs, students read and evaluate the emergency bushfire plan. They should take note of any areas that may need updating. Share findings with the class.
Pairs then write a letter to the school principal or board outlining any suggested updates, justifying why they are needed. Students could also present their ideas at a school council meeting.
- If your school does not have a bushfire emergency plan:
In pairs, students read the general emergency plan. Does it have specific provisions for bushfire situations? If not, make suggestions about what needs to be included in this plan, or work together to create a specific bushfire emergency plan.
Present these ideas to the school principal or board.

Students, with the support of the teacher, complete the **'Our School Bushfire Plan'** activity sheet. The information on this sheet can be collected from the school's bushfire emergency plan, general emergency plan or from staff. A copy should be taken home and displayed for all family members to read. Students could also prepare a presentation of the key issues to be delivered at a school/parent information evening.

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.

- Identify the school fire warden and compile a list of questions for him/her to answer. Find out how students can help the warden in a fire situation.
- Students to create a form of communication to remind families of the school's bushfire emergency plan. This could be a newsletter, information brochure, school website update or parent information book.
- 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
- 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/