

HOME FIRE SAFETY



NERO *with* ASHCAN

LESSON PLAN



Manitoba
Labour
Office of the
Fire Commissioner



HOME FIRE SAFETY SAFARI PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

This instructional kit is designed so the information can be easily presented. The program introduces children from grades three to six to key fire hazards in the home. As well, it encourages children, along with their parents/guardian, to conduct an inspection of their own home.

The kit contains the following:

- Lesson Plan
- Teaching Aids - video tape
 - brochures
 - "Official Guide" buttons
- Follow-up Souvenirs (fridge magnets)

BEFORE INSTRUCTING

1. Read the "Audience Tips" for dealing with children from grades three to six.
2. Study the objectives.
3. Study the teaching points and activities.
4. Add any special points or personal experiences you feel would contribute to the presentation.

AUDIENCE TIPS

(Children from Grades Three to Six)

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Children in this age group tend to have a preoccupation with acceptance by their social group. (ie. They have a fear of being unpopular or ridiculed and are sensitive to criticism.) However, they do still identify with an admired adult and depend on adult control. These children are developing a strong sense of right and wrong. Their attention span has also increased significantly.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRESENTATION:

Seating arrangements can be variable (formal or informal) depending on your preference. Having students sit in chairs or desks may discourage any "rowdiness".

Use a sense of humor.

As the age of your audience increases you can go into more detail. (Explanations should still be relatively brief and simple.)

Draw on your personal experiences (not horror stories) to maintain interest.

Spend time answering the students' questions.

LESSON PLAN

OBJECTIVES:

The students will be able to:

- identify key fire hazards in a common household;
- demonstrate the proper behavior in case of fire;
- explain the concept of prefire planning;
- guide their parents on a home fire safety safari.

TIME REQUIRED:

40 minutes.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:

VCR and monitor.

TEACHING AIDS:

Videotape, brochures, "Official Guide" buttons.

1. INTRODUCTION

TEACHING POINTS

Home, most people think home is the safest place to be. But, home can be dangerous!

One-third of all fires in Manitoba occur in the home. Eighty percent of all deaths and injuries caused by fire are also in the home.

Many homes are a jungle of fire hazards. They lurk about waiting to start a fire! Most of these fires can be avoided. By tracking down fire hazards in our homes we can make them a safer place to be.

ACTIVITIES

Discuss key reasons why you have come to talk about home fire safety. (Local examples could also be effective.)

Compare fire hazards to the dangers in the jungle.

2. KEY FIRE HAZARDS

TEACHING POINTS

ACTIVITIES

Going room-by-room, discuss common fire hazards that could be hiding in their homes.

Option: You could ask the students to list the fire hazards they might find in each room. (Add any other important hazards that they have missed.)

2.1. KITCHEN

TEACHING POINTS

Things that can burn (tea towels, oven mits) too near to the stove.

Unattended cooking.

Pot handles hanging over the edge of the stove.

Loose fitting sleeves near the burners of the stove.

Note: if an oven or microwave fire occurs, close the door and shut it off.

ACTIVITIES

List or have the students come up with hazards that you could find in the kitchen.

Explain that young children could reach the pot handles and knock the contents on themselves.

Caution students that loose sleeves can catch on fire! Explain that if your clothes do catch fire you must: Stop, Drop, and Roll, and cover your face. (Ask one of the students to demonstrate the procedure.)

Ask students to tell their parents or guardian about this, so if it ever happens they will know what to do.

2.2 LIVING AND FAMILY ROOMS

TEACHING POINTS

Careless smoking

Electrical cords in poor repair or snaked under carpets.

TV and stereo equipment without enough air space around them.

Space heaters too close to things that burn.

Matches and lighters within the reach of children.

Overloaded electrical outlets.

ACTIVITIES

List or have students come up with fire hazards you might find in living rooms or family rooms.

Use approximately 3 feet as a safe distance guideline.

Compare the overloaded outlet to an octopus.

2.3 BEDROOMS AND BATHROOMS

TEACHING POINTS

Smoking in bed.

Electrical appliance near water. (Special outlets in bathrooms help prevent electric shocks.)

Hot water! (The hot water heater should be set no higher than 50 degrees C or 120 degrees F.)

ACTIVITIES

List or have students come up with fire hazards that might be in bedrooms or bathrooms.

Use examples to explain this point.
Eg. a hairdryer near bathroom sink.

Ask students to have their parents check the thermostat on the hot water tank.

2.4 BASEMENTS

TEACHING POINTS

Rubbish build-up, especially near the furnace.

Flammable liquids, like gasoline should be stored in approved containers outside the house.

Dryer lint (Should be removed after every use.)

ACTIVITIES

List or have students come up with fire hazards that might be in basements. Stress that good housekeeping prevents many fires!

You could bring a sample CSA approved container to explain your point.

2.5 WORKSHOP/GARAGE

TEACHING POINTS

Power tools in disrepair. (eg. frayed cord)

Bent prongs on three prong cords.

Untidiness - rubbish build-up.

ACTIVITIES

List or have students come up with fire hazards that could be in the workshop or garage.

2.6 OUTSIDE

TEACHING POINTS

Lawn mowers/snow blowers. (Should only refuel after the engine has cooled. Move it away from fumes before restarting.)

Rubbish/snow blocking exits.

ACTIVITIES

List or have students list fire hazards outside in the yard.

Remind students that if there is a fire, they must be able to GET OUT!

3. PREFIRE PLANNING

3.1 HOME ESCAPE PLAN

TEACHING POINTS

Plan at least **two** ways out of every room, so you don't get trapped. Select a meeting spot, so everyone knows where to go.

Remember: During your escape, feel the door of the room to see if it is hot. If it is HOT use your second exit! If it is not hot, open it slowly. Proceed out the door only if there is no smoke.

Practice your escape regularly.

In a fire smoke rises, so crawl low where the air is cleaner.

ACTIVITIES

Explain that the best thing to do in a fire is to Get Out and Stay Out! (To do this you need an escape plan.)

Emphasize that the whole family needs to be involved and know the plan.

Ask for a volunteer to demonstrate what to do if there is smoke in your room.

3.2 SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

TEACHING POINTS

Smoke alarms are especially important when you are sleeping, because you won't smell the smoke!

By law, every home in Manitoba must have at least one smoke alarm. One on every floor is recommended.

Test your smoke alarm once a month.
Replace batteries once a year.

ACTIVITIES

Discuss why smoke alarms are so important to prefire planning.

Mention that one smoke alarm should be placed near the bedrooms area, so that it would wake you up if there was a fire.

Emphasize maintenance.

4. REVIEW OF FIRE SAFETY MESSAGES

TEACHING POINTS

ACTIVITIES

Show the Nero and Ashcan Home Fire Safety Safari videotape. Tell the students that the video shows Nero and Ashcan and their parents on a safari, hunting for fire hazards in their home!

5. REINFORCEMENT OF MESSAGE

TEACHING POINTS

ACTIVITIES

Ask the students a variety of questions to see what they have learned.

Examples:

- Can you name a fire hazard you might find in a kitchen?
- How could your parent/guardian extinguish a microwave fire?
- If the room were filled with smoke, would you stand and walk out of the room? If not, can you show me how you would do it?
- How often should you test your smoke alarm?
- What fire hazards might you find in a family room?
- What would you do if your clothes caught on fire?

Give the students a chance to ask you any questions about the lesson.

6. PROMOTE FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME

TEACHING POINTS

ACTIVITIES

Ask students if they are ready to go on a Safari in their own home.

Ask the students to take their parents/guardian on a safari to track down fire hazards in their home. Explain that anyone who completes the checklist in the back of the booklet and returns it to the fire department will receive a special souvenir. (fridge magnet)

Handout the Home Fire Safety Safari Guide Booklets to students.

Handout the "Official Guide" buttons.

Make special mention that the Guide Book contains the information that has been discussed in class PLUS some additional pointers just for the parents/guardian.

Remind them that they should inspect their home with an adult!

Wish the students luck on their home fire safety safari!