



Government
of South Australia

SA Metropolitan Fire Service

2019 Schools Fire Safety Competition Fire Safety Teaching Notes

More information phone Shelley Roylance on 8204 3611
or email shelley.roylance@sa.gov.au



Topic 1: Good Fires & Bad Fires

(Suggested for Reception and Year 1 students)

Good Fires are those which we use as tools in our everyday activities to improve our lives – barbeques, gas stoves, candles for lighting, candles for decoration (e.g. birthday cakes, decorator candles) matches, camp fires, open fires for heating, combustion stoves for heating etc.

Good fires are controlled and contained.

Bad Fires are fires which are out of control – e.g. house fires, bush fires, grass fires, flammable liquid explosions, accumulated fat on a barbeque or stove catching fire.

An important point for the children to grasp is that Good Fires (controlled fires) can turn into Bad Fires (uncontrolled fires) very quickly and very easily. When they do, it is very hard to bring them back under control again. That is why we must all be so careful with fire and why children must always have adult supervision near fires.

We have provided colouring in sheets for those children not wishing to re-create the messages from scratch attached as pages 4 and 5 of this document.

Topic 2: Matches & Lighters are Tools not Toys

(Suggested for Year 2 and Year 3 students)

Children are often fascinated with fire and may play with matches and lighters as they experiment with their natural environment.

When Fire Service Officers talk to children they ask them about the toys they play with. They point out that things which are toys are things which are safe to play with. Then they talk to the children about what sort of tools they have seen adults using and point out that tools are not safe things to play with; they are dangerous.

Matches and lighters are tools not toys. They are dangerous!

When children play with fire they have little concept of how quickly a small, contained and controlled fire can get out of control, and the consequences of the fire once it is out of control – themselves burnt, people burnt, home burnt, possessions burnt, pets burnt, or the devastating consequences of a bush fire.





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Topic 3: What do you do when a room fills with smoke? Get down low, and Go Go Go! *(Suggested for Year 4 and Year 5 students)*

In a house fire dense clouds of smoke are created in enclosed spaces.

The smoke contains little or no oxygen, many poisonous gases and solids and, worst of all, the smoke is almost as hot as the fire itself.

However, smoke rises and even if the smoke in the room is in the 200 – 400 degree (Celsius) range there will be a layer of cooler, cleaner air under the smoke and low to the floor.

So to escape from a room filled with smoke we teach the children to “Get down low and Go! Go! Go!” ie crawl low under smoke.

Topic 4: What do you do if your clothes catch on fire? Stop, Cover, Drop and Roll! *(Suggested for Year 5 and Year 6 students)*

We teach children that if their clothes catch on fire they should:

STOP Don't run! Running means that the flames are fed with plenty of oxygen and the fire will spread quicker.

COVER Cover your face with your hands to protect from rising heat and flames.

The skin on the back of the hands is tougher than the face, and covering both the eyes and the airways (nose and mouth) reduces the risk of internal burns.

DROP Drop to the floor.

ROLL Roll backwards and forwards over the flames to extinguish them. Rolling on the flames starves the fire of oxygen and smothers it.





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Topic 5: Every home should have a Home Fire Escape Plan

(Suggested for Year 6 and Year 7 students)

Developing a Home Fire Escape Plan is a process. It consists of families working out what they will do in the event of a fire in their home, and then regularly practising what they have planned.

A key factor in every Home Fire Escape Plan is knowing two ways out of every room in the house.

The things which should be known by every person living in the home are:

- The smoke alarm alerts you to the fire. If you are in a room with a closed door then feel the door or the door handle with the back of your hand.
- If the door is hot, do NOT open it. Get out of the room using the alternate exit, crawling across the floor if necessary, to stay under the smoke. (Refer Notes for "What do you do when a room fills with smoke?")
- If the door is not hot then open it very slowly and carefully and exit by the nearest external exit, crawling if necessary, to stay under the smoke.
- Bang on doors as you pass them; shout warnings loudly and continuously to other occupants as you get out.
- Once outside knock on all the doors and windows to alert others – from the outside.
- Go to the designated meeting place – somewhere close by but safe from the fire. The letterbox is often an ideal choice. At the letterbox you can see if anyone is missing.
- One person goes to call 000 for the Fire Service (using a mobile or a neighbour's phone) and the others must stay together.
- If anyone is missing DO NOT RE-ENTER THE HOUSE. Go to the person's room and try to get them out through the window.

Once it's clear that everyone is out of the house, one person must stay to direct the Fire Service when it arrives, but the rest of the family can then seek shelter with a neighbour.



2019 MFS Schools Fire Safety Competition

Reception / Year One

Colouring In Sheet in lieu of poster competition entry



School

Student first name

Year level

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School

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