LEARN FIREFIGHTER SAFETY WITH SMEKEY

Fire safety ROCKS!
CFS
The CFS is a short way of saying the “South Australian Country Fire Service.” The CFS works in country areas of South Australia and helps with things like bushfires, building fires, motor vehicle fires, rescuing people in car crashes, and cleaning up “hazardous material spills” (when dangerous things leak or get spilt). CFS members are almost all volunteers, giving thousands and thousands of hours of their free time to help. They also help people get ready for bushfires.

Fire Danger Season
The Fire Danger Season is a time of the year when bushfires are more likely to happen, and can be more dangerous if they do. There are some things you're not allowed to do during the Fire Danger Season, and other things that you can do at this time of year to stay safe and prevent fires.

Fire Ban District
Just like your town or suburb, only bigger… This is an area where fire dangers are similar enough that one set of rules applies to the whole area – like the dates for the Fire Danger Season, whether it's a Total Fire Ban Day, or what the Fire Danger Rating is.

Fire Danger Rating
A Fire Danger Rating is calculated using a whole lot of information about the weather and the environment and some very complicated maths. *It doesn’t predict that a bushfire will happen, but tells us how bad a bushfire could be if it did start on that day.* You can find out the night before what tomorrow’s Fire Danger Rating will be, and use this to act out your Bushfire Survival Plan.

Total Fire Ban Day
Just like it sounds, a total Fire Ban Day is a day when you’re not allowed to light fires, even for some types of barbeques. The CFS website has a list of things you can and can’t do on total Fire Ban Days.

Find it out  My Fire Ban District is:
[Hint: you can look up your Fire Ban District on the SA Country Fire Service website: www.cfs.sa.gov.au]
If one of these isn’t present, the fire cannot start. If one of these is taken away, the fire will go out.

So how does it all work?

**Oxygen**

We all breathe the oxygen in the air around us, and so does fire. If we cover a fire, it can’t get any more oxygen and will suffocate.

**Fuel**

Anything that will burn can provide fuel to feed a fire. It can be solid (like wood, fabric and plastic), liquid (like petrol and cooking oil) or gas (like the gas you might cook with at home or in your barbeque). One of the ways you can protect your house from bushfires is to clean leaves out of your gutters, and keep flammable things such as log piles and gas bottles away from your house.

**Heat**

The final piece of the triangle is having enough heat to set fire to the fuel. Lots of things can provide heat for a fire, such as lightning, matches, electricity, heaters, radiators, stoves, overloaded power points, and damaged electrical cords. You can prevent fires from starting by removing sources of heat. Firefighters also use water and foam to cool fires to put them out.

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**Activity: Fire Triangle**

Opposite is a list of ways we can prevent fires, or put them out once they’ve started. Each of them targets part of the fire triangle.

Do you know which one? Circle Oxygen, Heat or Fuel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire prevention / treatment</th>
<th>Fire Triangle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Pouring water on the fire</td>
<td>Oxygen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Covering the fire with a fire blanket</td>
<td>Oxygen, Heat, Fuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Rolling on the ground to extinguish clothes on fire</td>
<td>Oxygen, Heat, Fuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Clearing fallen branches and leaves from around your house</td>
<td>Oxygen, Heat, Fuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Turning off heaters when you leave the house</td>
<td>Oxygen, Heat, Fuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Making sure you turn off the gas when you finish cooking</td>
<td>Oxygen, Heat, Fuel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some things are the same with bushfires and house fires. Some things are different.

Can you pick which are the **same** and which are **different**?

Put a ✓ in the middle for same, and a ✗ for different…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bushfire</th>
<th>House fire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The safest place to be is:</td>
<td>The safest place to be is:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Best: Far away from where the bushfires are</td>
<td>1. Outside - away from the heat and the smoke that is inside the house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Second best: In a solid building - away from the radiant heat that is outside the house</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>If you see a fire, call 000</td>
<td>If you see a fire, call 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>If you shelter from a bushfire inside a room of your house, make sure you know two ways out (hint: you may use a window as well as a door)</td>
<td>Make sure you know two ways out of every room in your house in case there’s a fire (hint: you may use a window as well as a door)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>You can reduce the risk and consequences of bushfires by identifying and minimising hazards</td>
<td>You can reduce the risk and consequences of house fires by identifying and minimising hazards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Knowing today’s Fire Danger Rating can save your life by warning you about conditions when bushfires are likely to be more dangerous, but it only helps if you have a plan of what to do</td>
<td>A smoke alarm can save your life by warning you about a fire in your house, but only if you test it and check the batteries regularly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Firefighters are our friends and can help us. We can also help ourselves by knowing about fire safety and prevention</td>
<td>Firefighters are our friends and can help us. We can also help ourselves by knowing about fire safety and prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sometimes bushfires start because people are careless or doing things they shouldn’t</td>
<td>Sometimes house fires start because people are careless or doing things they shouldn’t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Plan ahead and pack the things you might want to take with you when you leave</td>
<td>Do not stop to collect anything on your way out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>You can – and should – create and practise a plan in advance with your whole family</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>There are certain days when bushfires are more dangerous if they start. You can find out about these days in advance and go somewhere safer.</td>
<td>Any house fire can be dangerous and can start any time. You should always get straight out of the house if there’s a fire.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Answers:** 4
If there is a fire in your house, you should always get out of the house immediately (see page 8 for how to safely get out).

You should then call 000 (triple zero) from a mobile phone or a neighbour’s house to report the fire.

Questions the Fire Brigade/Fire Service might ask:
- What is your name and address?
- What is the nearest cross street to the house?
- What is burning?
- How big is the fire?
- Is everyone safe, or is someone hurt or missing?

Quiz
Draw a circle around the letter which gives the right answer to each of the 3 questions below:

1  I know what to do if a fire started at my house because:
   A. I can work it out when the time comes.
   B. My family has a Home Fire Escape Plan.
   C. My uncle is a firefighter.
   D. I have seen it on television.

2  If I report a fire the Fire brigade will need to know:
   A. Only the name of my street.
   B. How bad the fire is.
   C. My name, street address and suburb.
   D. What time it is.
   E. My favourite flavour of ice-cream.

3  If there was a fire in my house at night I would first:
   A. Look for my brothers and sisters.
   B. Follow our escape plan to the family meeting place and have a roll call.
   C. Try to put the fire out with water.
   D. Wake up my neighbours.
   E. Panic and hide under the bed.

Dialling 000
1  What would you say on the phone if you were reporting a fire to the fire brigade/fire service?
2  Why should you first LEAVE a place where there is a fire BEFORE calling for help?
3  Why should you always call the fire brigade/fire service for help?

Answers
1  You should give your name and the address of the fire and the location of the fire in the house, apartment or building.
2  If you stayed in the house you could be overcome by the smoke in the few minutes it takes to phone for help.
3  The fire brigade/fire service has all the right equipment and experience to fight fires. The quicker the fire brigade/fire service is called the quicker they can turn up. It does not matter if others report the fire too, just so long as the brigade is told right away.
The most important thing you can learn is how to stop bad fires before they have a chance to start!

Cleaning up outdoor hazards can help keep your house safe from bushfires.

Activity: Outdoor Fire Hazards

Is this house safe from Bushfires?
Help clean up fire hazards on this property, to protect the house from bushfires.

1. Put a red cross on each fire hazard you can spot.
2. Make a list of things to do to clean up and protect the property and house from bushfires.
3. Show your list to an adult and give your reasons.

Outdoor fire hazards:

- Heavy undergrowth around the house,
- Long dry grass, wood piles and flammable liquids stored close to the house,
- Lots of dead leaves and twigs under trees are all examples of outdoor fire hazards.
Most fires are caused by accident. Do you know what causes most accidents? If you said CARELESSNESS you are correct.

Activity: Indoor Fire Hazards

There are 12 fire and burn hazards in this house.

1 List each of the hazards.
2 Explain how to correct these hazards and make the house safe.
3 Show this list to your family to help them identify hazards that need to be removed at home.

List the fire hazards

Rubbish, oily rags, piles of old newspapers, toys or clothes or furniture too close to heaters, unattended candles, open fire places or stoves, matches left within reach of young children, faulty electrical cords, appliances left on after use or overnight, and chimneys blocked with soot are all examples of indoor fire hazards.
Remember, if there is smoke or lots of heat in the house, a fire is near...

Smokey says this is what you must do:

- First shout “Fire” to warn the family.
- Then get down on your hands and knees and crawl away from the smoke and fire to an exit. Keep low to the ground (or floor) as the air is fresher to breathe near the ground.
- Before you open any doors first test the door for heat. Fire could be on the other side. Use the back of your hands to touch the door, not your finger tips and don’t touch the handle - which might be very hot.
- If the door is HOT do not open it. Move back and crawl out through the window.
- If the door is COLD open it carefully. Do not let smoke or heat in. If it is safe to leave through the door keep low and crawl out of the house. Close all doors as you go to keep the smoke/heat/fire away from you.
- If you cannot escape through a door or window exit DO NOT HIDE. Wait at the window and wave a sheet or flashlight as a signal to let the fire brigade know where you are. The fire brigade will come and rescue you and put out the fire.

Activity: find the safe way out

Find the safe way out of the burning house – remember you should always know at least two ways out of every room, and the safest exit may be the window!
If your clothes catch fire:

1. **STOP**
   Never run. Running gives the fire more oxygen to burn and makes it bigger and faster.

2. **COVER**
   Cover your face with your hands to protect your face from flames.

3. **DROP**
   Drop to the ground.

4. **ROLL**
   Roll over and over and over. This smothers the flames, cuts off the oxygen to the fire and puts out the fire.

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**Activity: Stop Cover Drop Roll**

1. Remember the fire triangle on page 3? What part of the triangle do the “Stop” and “Roll” help with?

2. How would you help a friend whose clothes have caught fire?

3. Why is it important to practise Stop Cover Drop Roll?

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**To avoid bad burns and clothing catching fire:**

Do not play with fire, matches, or cigarettes and do not stand too close to stoves, heaters, fire places or outdoor barbeques.

**Answers**

1. They remove the oxygen: Running around gives the flames more oxygen, so we **STOP**;
   ROLLing on the ground smothers the flames by cutting off oxygen. Using a fire blanket or rug helps to smother the flames even more.

2. Help them to **STOP, COVER, DROP, and ROLL** by pushing them to the ground and rolling them over until the flames are out. Covering them with a blanket or rug will help put the flames out.

3. Practise **STOP, COVER, DROP and ROLL** so if your clothes ever caught fire you would not panic and get burnt. Instead you would know what to do - **STOP, COVER, DROP and ROLL** to put out the fire.
Making a fire escape plan for your home can be fun and is the safe thing to do.

Help your parents to make up a Home Fire Escape Plan today so everyone knows how to get out safely.

**Steps to follow**

Using the grid above, draw a floor plan of your home. Show all rooms, bedrooms, windows and doors. Then label them.

1. Know of two ways out of every room. **USUALLY THE TWO EXITS FROM EACH ROOM ARE THE DOOR AND WINDOW.**
2. Mark all exits from each room on your Home Fire Escape Plan.
3. With your family take the plan to each bedroom and test the escape routes. Make sure windows can open easily.
4. Plan to assist infants, elderly and members of the family with disabilities.
5. Select a safe meeting place outdoors for the family to meet for roll call. Mark with a cross the meeting place on your Home Fire Escape Plan.
6. At the first sign of smoke or fire get out fast. Do not stop to collect pets or toys.
7. Remember once out - stay out.
8. Go to your neighbour’s house or use a mobile phone to call the fire brigade/fire service and report the fire.
Can you solve Smokey’s coded message?

Use the code letters under the message to decipher Smokey’s secret note.

Code letters

A D E H K L M N O R S V Y

Bonus points: If you’re careless with some of the things in the pictures Smokey has used for his code symbols, they can be fire hazards. Which ones?

Bonus points:

- E (campfire)
- H (heater)
- K (chimney smoke indicates wood fire inside the house)
- L (candle)
- N (cigarette)
- O (matches)
- V (cooking)
- D (lightning) is also a hazard responsible for many bushfires.
It’s important to think about things that are special to you when planning for an emergency. An Emergency Kit is a great way to make sure the special and important things come with you.

**What special things would you put in an Emergency Kit?**

You can even make a backpack with some of these things so you can get them easily if you need to leave your house.

Draw pictures here or use the stickers in this book.

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**Emergency Kits can keep your valuables safe. Other things that can keep you safe are:**

**Have a Plan**

It’s important that your whole family creates a Home Fire Escape Plan (see page 10), and a Bushfire Survival Plan (see the CFS website) so you all know what to do.

**Practise Your Plan (have a drill)**

Because fires are fast and scary – and most house fires occur at night when you’re asleep – it’s important to have tested and learnt your plan in advance so you know what to do without thinking.

**Tips for Fire Drills**

- Never hold a fire drill without your parents.
- Always practise drills in the daylight.
- Practise fire escape drills in bedrooms, because night fires are the most dangerous.

**Turn it off**

Minimise the risk of fires starting while you’re asleep by turning heaters and other appliances off when you go to bed.

**Smoke alarms**

The law requires that all homes have smoke alarms fitted.

Smoke alarms will sound a loud alarm to wake you, so your family can escape safely.

Remember to press the test button once a week to see if the smoke detector is working; change the battery once a year at the end of daylight saving, or if you hear a ‘low power’ warning beep; and get a new smoke alarm every ten years.
1. Check if you’re allowed
Check the fire danger rating, fire bans and local fire rules before lighting a campfire.
During the Fire Danger Season, some of the rules below become law. On a Total Fire Ban Day, you’re not allowed to have a fire at all. Make sure you know what you’re allowed to do, by checking the CFS website (www.cfs.sa.gov.au), or calling the Bushfire Information Hotline on 1300 362 361 (TTY 133 677).
During Fire Danger Season, you may not be able to light fires in National Parks, even when it’s not a Total Fire Ban Day. Check Park signs, or contact the Park office to find out more.

2. Keep it clear
Make sure there aren’t any overhanging branches above your fire and clear branches and leaves off the ground to make a clear space of four metres around the fire.
Make your fire away from your tents and anything else that could catch fire.

3. Keep it contained: use or make a fireplace
Use a fireplace: You might be somewhere with barbeques or special fire pits. This is the safest place to light a fire
Make your own:
Trench: If there aren’t ready-made fire pits, make your own by digging a trench. If you light a fire during the Fire Danger Season, this trench is compulsory, and has to be 30cm deep and smaller than one metre in area.
Rocks: You can make a ring of big rocks to keep your fire contained, but be careful which rocks you choose! River rocks or creek stones can shatter and cause injury.

4. Don’t use flammable liquids like petrol or kerosene to light your fire
Anything flammable near fire is very dangerous. You could end up hurting someone or burning something that shouldn’t be burnt.

5. Watch it
Never leave a camp fire alone. Keep water or an extinguisher handy too.

6. Make sure your camp fire is completely put out with water before you leave or go to sleep.
Water is the best way to cool a campfire. Putting dirt or sand on the fire is not good, as the sand or dirt can get hot and burn you or restart the fire.

Put out campfires with water!
Across
3. _______ are tools, not toys and you shouldn’t play with them
4. You might smell the smoke before you see the _______
7. _______ are one of the risks of living in Australia, but we can prepare our home and our family
9. You should always put a campfire out with _______, not sand or dirt
13. You should make sure your family has a Bushfire Survival ______ and a Home Fire Escape ______
15. You can use the _______ , the radio and the internet to find out more about a bushfire in your area
18. If your clothes catch fire, stop, cover, _______ and roll
20. Don’t forget to plan for the safety of your pets and all _______
22. Being well prepared, with a written and practiced plan is the best way to _______
23. You are _______ to find out more information about home and bushfire safety by visiting the CFS and MFS websites
25. The _______ can affect how bad a fire danger day it will be
27. It is important to stay ______ if there’s a fire
29. If there’s a fire in your house, you should get ______ and stay ______
31. If you plan to leave on a day of high fire danger, it’s important to leave ______
32. The safest way out of a room may be through the _______
33. An important part of a Home Fire Escape Plan is knowing where to _______

Down
1. These are useful to squirt water at little fires and to wet down the outside of your home _______
2. Most—but not all—bushfires happen in the _______ season
5. Knowing tomorrow’s Fire _______ Rating can help you decide whether to enact your Bushfire Survival Plan
6. All members of your family can _______ to prepare your survival plan
7. Curtains and clothes can _______ if they are too close to a heater
8. The most dangerous part of a bushfire isn’t the flames, but the part that travels in front called radiant _______
10. You should know at least ______ ways out of every room
11. The fire triangle is made up of oxygen, heat and _______
12. Fire safety starts with _______
14. Every home should have a smoke _______
16. You can prevent the _______ of valuable items by packing them in your relocation kit and taking them away on high fire danger days
17. If there’s _______ , you should get down low and go go go
19. It is important to _______ Emergency Kits for during and after a bushfire
21. There might not be a _______ at your home during a bushfire, because they could be fighting a fire somewhere else
24. _______ person in your family should know your Bushfire Survival and Home Fire Escape Plans
26. A day of high fire risk is usually very _______ and dry
28. If you decide to _______ your home too late with a bushfire in your area, you could be in a lot of danger
30. You should crawl low _______ smoke
32. Fuel that is ______ is less likely to burn
Activity: Escape the burning house

To escape the burning house, follow the path and use a word from the list below to finish each sentence.

If your ____________ is on fire,
quickly shut each ____________ behind you as you move outside.

Find an ____________ and tell him or her about the ____________
Keep ____________ from the ____________ and the firefighters.

Dial ____________ and ask for the ____________
When the ____________ arrive, tell them where the fire is.

Give the ____________ and ____________ of the street,
and the nearest ____________
tell them the suburb and what is burning.

If your ____________ is on fire,

START!

SAFE!

ACTIVITY reproduced courtesy Western Australian Fire Brigades Board
Hey kids!
Make your own Smokey truck!
Cut out and fold to make your truck.