



FIRE SAFE KIDS

Introduction



It is important that young children understand fire danger and are equipped to take simple actions to protect themselves. The *Fire Safe Kids* educational resource includes the most up-to-date fire preparedness and personal fire safety information for pre-primary and primary level students. The toolkit comprises detailed lesson plans that have strong links to the Victorian curriculum, support materials, worksheets and posters to help convey key concepts.

At pre-primary level the activities focus on the area of residential fire safety, and aim to ensure that children know to get out, find a safe place and call for help. This session also aims to be used as a familiarisation activity with firefighters as helpers in the community.

Primary level activities further explore all aspects of fire safety, including personal fire safety and common hazards found in a residential setting; they also aim to increase students' understanding of bushfires and ways in which students can help their families and community get ready for the fire season.

Fire Safe Kids lessons have been designed to be delivered independently of the fire truck or other specialised firefighting equipment. Often, the fire truck and equipment can distract children from the important messages delivered in the program.

The program and associated materials have been developed in conjunction with CFA personnel and teachers, and is based on the successful *Brigades in Schools* program.

Contents of *Fire Safe Kids*

Fire Safe Kids is designed to provide presenters with everything they need to conduct a presentation for pre-primary and all levels of primary school. It includes:

- presenter's notes that contain background information, and flexible activities with strong links to the curriculum
- support materials and worksheets
- A3 and A2 posters
- smoke parachute
- participation certificates
- student giveaways – stickers, rulers, pencils, badge templates
- CD-ROM
- pre- and post-visit teacher lesson plans
- teacher evaluation, electronic or see **Teacher evaluation**.

Curriculum connections

Fire Safe Kids, which is designed for pre-primary and all levels of primary, has strong links to the Australian Victorian Essential Learning Standards (AusVELS). The AusVELS, a curriculum framework that teachers are required to follow, encompasses key subject areas such as science, mathematics, English, the arts and humanities (see detailed curriculum links at the beginning of each primary school section).

Children and firefighting

Childhood firefighting causes thousands of dollars worth of property loss each year. As well as the financial cost there is also an emotional and social cost to families who have lost their home as a result of a child setting fire to it. The Juvenile Fire Awareness and Intervention Program (JFAIP) is aimed at children who have engaged in firefighting behaviour or are considered to be at risk of this behaviour.

Firefighters, visit the child at home to conduct an initial interview. Then, over a number of weeks, they visit the child at home to conduct a series of interventions with the aim of educating and promoting fire safe behaviour.

The practitioners' partnership with parents helps develop an environment in which the child and all family members learn safe, responsible behaviour. Practitioners focus entirely on fire safety education and reward positive behaviour. Development of the child's trust in this procedure is crucial.

Referrals to the program come from a variety of sources, including the child's parents, the fire brigade, schools, Department of Human Services and the Police. Parents must agree to their child participating in the program prior to it starting.

Fire Safe Kids in fire-affected schools

For students in fire-affected schools CFA offers a specifically tailored presentation. Students are given the opportunity to submit questions and concerns anonymously; lessons for individual age groups are based on these submissions. These sessions are factual and informative, and empower and better equip students to face future fire seasons. Before conducting these sessions, consultations between the school principal, school psychologist, parents and teachers are conducted.

For more information regarding this important program, please contact CFA Communities & Communication on 9262 8444.

Support materials, worksheets and posters

Some activities in the toolkit use:

- support materials, which are a mixture of reference materials and information for students and teachers
- worksheets, to help presenters undertake the activities with minimum preparation
- posters, to provide visual aids to key messages being taught
- electronic games, to provide additional opportunities to cement lesson learnings.

These will be referenced at the start of each lesson under the heading 'Materials needed'. The following users' guide provides a quick reference to help with preparation.

Support materials users' guide

Support material	Description	Activity
Support material 1: Letter to parent/guardian	A pro forma letter to make parents/guardians aware of CFA's upcoming visit.	To be used with each session/lesson, but most importantly with: Grades 3–4: Lesson plans 1 and 2 Grades 5–6: Lesson plans 1 and 2
Support material 2: What is CFA? What does CFA do?	This information sheet covers the history and responsibilities of CFA.	Pre-primary: Pre-visit teacher led session General reference for students and teachers
Support material 3: Helpers in our community	This information sheet describes the role of firefighters in the community.	Pre-primary: Pre-visit teacher led session
Support material 4: Meet Captain Koala and friends	This information sheet includes profiles of Captain Koala and friends.	Pre-primary: Pre-visit teacher led session Pre-primary: Post-visit teacher led session Prep–Grade 2: Pre-visit teacher led session Prep–Grade 2: Lesson plan 3 Prep–Grade 2: Post-visit teacher led session Grades 5–6: Pre-visit teacher led session
Support material 5: A perspective on fire	Simple information regarding fire and its evolution over time.	Grades 3–4: Pre-visit teacher led session General reference for students and teachers
Support material 6: Fire science	Information regarding what is fire and how it's created.	Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 3 General reference for students and teachers
Support material 7: Bushfires in Victoria: information for teachers	Comprehensive information regarding fires, their effects and history, including examples of Victoria's worst fires, how to respond and what is being done to increase preparedness.	General reference for teachers
Support material 8: Bushfires in Victoria: information for students	Simplified version of <i>Support material 7</i> , suitable for students.	General reference for students
Support material 9: What to do in an emergency	Useful information for what to do in an emergency.	General reference for students and teachers
Support material 10: Useful websites	Visit an array of websites to increase your knowledge of fire education.	General reference for students and teachers
Support material 11: Glossary	Definitions of words and terms used in fire education.	General reference for students and teachers
Support material 12: Reference material	Examples of relevant books/resources that may be useful.	General reference for presenters

Worksheets users' guide

Worksheet	Activity
Worksheet 1: Captain Koala is a firefighter	Pre-primary: Pre-visit teacher led session
Worksheet 2: Fire safety hat	Pre-primary: Pre-visit teacher led session (extension)
Worksheet 3: Penny Platypus badge	Pre-primary: Post-visit teacher led session (extension) Also for general use
Worksheet 4: Captain Koala badge	Prep–Grade 2: Lesson plan 1 (extension) Also for general use
Worksheet 5: Wozza Wombat badge	Prep–Grade 2: Lesson plan 2 (extension) Also for general use
Worksheet 6: Bianca Bilby badge	Prep–Grade 2: Lesson plan 3 (extension) Also for general use
Worksheet 7: James badge	Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 1 (extension) Also for general use
Worksheet 8: Sophie badge	Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 2 (extension) Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 3 (extension) Also for general use
Worksheet 9: Neville Numbat badge	Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 3 (extension) Also for general use
Worksheet 10: Captain Koala and friends badge	Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 1 (extension) Also for general use
Worksheet 11: In an emergency dial triple zero	Pre-primary: Session plan 1
Worksheet 12: Fire smart from the start	Pre-primary: Session plan 1
Worksheet 13: Dial triple zero	Pre-primary: Post-visit teacher led session
Worksheet 14: Numbers (optional)	Pre-primary: Post-visit teacher led session
Worksheet 15: Penny Platypus says...	Pre-primary: Post-visit teacher led session
Worksheet 16: Dress for protection	Pre-primary: Post-visit teacher led session (extension)
Worksheet 17: Home fire safety mobile	Pre-primary: Post-visit teacher led session (extension)
Worksheet 18: Summer fire safety mobile	Pre-primary: Post-visit teacher led session (extension)
Worksheet 19: Wozza Wombat does the right thing with matches	Prep–Grade 2: Pre-visit teacher led session
Worksheet 20: Matchbox cut out	Prep–Grade 2: Pre-visit teacher led session
Worksheet 21: Find the exits to safety	Prep–Grade 2: Lesson plan 1 (extension)

Worksheets users' guide (continued)

Worksheet	Activity
Worksheet 22: Stop, drop, roll by Neville	Prep–Grade 2: Lesson plan 2 (extension)
Worksheet 23: Design a warning label	Prep–Grade 2: Lesson plan 2 (extension) Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 3 (extension)
Worksheet 24: Fire safety rules for our home	Prep–Grade 2: Lesson plan 3
Worksheet 25: Home fire safety word find and colour in	Prep–Grade 2: Lesson plan 3 (extension)
Worksheet 26: Fire safety connect	Prep–Grade 2: Post-visit teacher led session
Worksheet 27: Good fires, bad fires	Grades 3–4: Pre-visit teacher led session
Worksheet 28: What is the bushfire risk?	Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 1
Worksheet 29: Total Fire Ban: Can I or can't I?	Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 1 (extension)
Worksheet 30: Outdoor fire safety	Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 1 (extension)
Worksheet 31: Preparing for summer	Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 2
Worksheet 32: Is your property ready?	Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 2 (extension)
Worksheet 33: Cut out the hazards	Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 3
Worksheet 34: Fire warden hat	Grades 3–4: Post-visit teacher led session
Worksheet 35: My fire safety plan	Grades 3–4: Post-visit teacher led session
Worksheet 36: Bushfire Survival Plan	Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 1 (extension)
Worksheet 37: Causes of bushfires in Victoria	Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 2
Worksheet 38: Fire management	Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 2 (extension)
Worksheet 39: Mapping the wind	Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 2 (extension)
Worksheet 40: Home fire escape plan	Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 3 (extension)
Worksheet 41: Home hazards	Grades 5–6: Post-visit teacher led session
Worksheet 42: Home hazards to do list	Grades 5–6: Post-visit teacher led session
Worksheet 43: Firefighting uniforms	Operational
Worksheet 44: Firefighting vehicles	Operational
Worksheet 45: Fire Danger Rating word tree	Prep–Grade 2: Lesson plan 4
Worksheet 46: Fire Danger Ratings find-a-word	Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 4 Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 4
Teacher evaluation	For use with every <i>Fire Safe Kids</i> lesson (an online version of the evaluation is also available)

Posters users' guide

Poster	Description	Activity
Firefighters' turnout gear	Shows Captain Koala in turnout gear. Each piece of the turnout gear is clearly labelled. The poster is to be used when turnout gear is not available.	Prep–Grade 2: Lesson plan 2
Fire triangle	Illustrates the science of fire, the result of heat, oxygen and fuel.	Prep–Grade 2: Lesson plan 3 Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 3 Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 2
Home fire hazards	Shows situations that commonly cause fires at home: clothing too close to the fire/heater, damaged electrical goods, fire without screen.	Prep–Grade 2: Lesson plan 3 Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 3
Bushfire warning signs	Shows a map of CFA regions and districts, Fire Danger Ratings and the Total Fire Ban symbol.	Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 1 Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 2 Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 1
Outdoor fire safety	Shows a variety of outdoor situations in which fire is used or may occur.	Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 1 Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 1
Being prepared	Shows things to do to improve fire preparedness at home: Bianca fixing roof tiles, Neville raking leaves, Penny moving firewood away from house, Wozza cleaning gutters.	Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 2
Radiant heat	Shows heat sources that radiate heat, for example, a campfire.	Grades 3–4: Lesson plan 2
Bush before fire	Shows bushland before fire.	Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 2
Bush after fire	Shows bushland after fire, prior to regeneration.	Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 2
Regeneration after fire (trees)	Shows new shoots sprouting from a burnt tree branch.	Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 2
Regeneration after fire (seed pods and new growth)	Shows seed pods and new growth after fire.	Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 2
Regeneration after fire (bush)	Shows bushland regenerating after fire.	Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 2
Planned burns	Shows CFA and DEPI representative conducting planned burns.	Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 2
Reporting a fire	Shows how to report a fire and the information required by the operator.	Grades 5–6: Lesson plan 3