

Lesson plan 3:

Identifying fire hazards at home

Background

Many house fires and burn injuries can be prevented if potential fire hazards are identified and removed. Awareness of the dangers of flammable liquids and their safe use and storage is relevant for children of this age. Students need to be able to identify warning signs and have an awareness of the dangers and potential risks associated with inappropriate use of flammable liquids in the home.

Suggested teaching time

40 minutes

Objectives

To develop an understanding that fires are preventable so that students are able to:

- take appropriate responsibility for improving fire safety
- identify sources of fire in the home
- recognise warning labels for flammable liquids.

Materials needed

- **Poster: Fire triangle**
- **Poster: Home fire hazards**
- **Film: Home fire safety**
- **Worksheet 33: Cut out the hazards**
- **Support material 6: Fire science**
- Household items displaying flammable labels

Lesson outline

1. Prevention of fires

10 minutes

- Identify uses of fire and classify them into their different purposes, for example, cooking, heating and lighting.
- Use **Poster: Fire triangle** to discuss different fuels and heat sources for a fire. Using props such as a burnt out electrical appliance, and **Poster: Home fire hazards**, discuss some of the possible causes of fires in the home. If time allows view **Film: Home fire safety**.

2. Warning signs

10 minutes

- Discuss examples of warning signs students have seen that warn of different types of danger. List some types and where they have been seen.
- Display and talk about containers and clothing that carry warning labels.

- Show the symbols and encourage students to recognise the warnings.

3. Flammable liquids

10 minutes

- Discuss different types of flammable liquids. Show some of the containers for flammable liquids. See if there are any in the classroom. Ask students if they have any in their home.
- List places where flammable liquid containers might be stored around the home, for example, paint in the garage, petrol in the shed, cleaning products in the laundry cupboard.
- Outline some dangers associated with flammable liquids when they are stored or used incorrectly. Emphasise that many flammable liquids give off vapour that is invisible but will burn or explode if there is a spark or flame nearby.
- Emphasise the basic first aid treatment for a simple burn, which is cooling a burn under running cool water.

4. Cut out the hazards

10 minutes

- Provide each student with a copy of **Worksheet 33: Cut out the hazards**. Explain that students are to group the items pictured into ‘flammable’ and ‘non-flammable’ by cutting and pasting onto a second sheet of paper. The class can continue working on this activity in their own time. **Support material 6: Fire science** provides a short summary for students; copies may be left with students.

Extension activity

- **Worksheet 23: Design a warning label**
- **Worksheet 9: Neville Numbat badge**

Wozza Wombat says...
Flammable liquids
should be stored safely
away from the home

