

Pre-visit teacher led session:

People in our community

Background

CFA is responsible for fire protection and suppression throughout Victoria. CFA consists of more than 1200 brigades, with over 59,000 volunteer and 1400 career firefighters. Currently, there are 28 Staffed Stations and two CFA A11 Response Stations. All Staffed Stations are integrated stations made up of career and volunteer firefighters.

Suggested teaching time

30 minutes

Objective

To develop students’ understanding of the role of volunteers in the community.

Materials needed

- *Support material 4: Meet Captain Koala and friends*

Lesson outline

1. Volunteers in the community

10 minutes

- Ask students whether they know any volunteers in the community, for example, parents who help at school or coaches of local sporting teams. Explain that volunteers give their time freely to organisations to help the community. Discuss why people might become volunteers.
- Find out if anyone in the school is a volunteer. Are any of their teachers or parents/guardians volunteers with CFA? With another organisation?
- Explain that the majority of CFA firefighters are volunteers. It might help to discuss the role James undertakes for CFA – James is a primary school teacher who volunteers with CFA (refer to **Support material 4: Meet Captain Koala and friends**).

2. The role of a CFA firefighter

20 minutes

- Ask students to form groups of four and brainstorm all of the jobs they have seen firefighters undertake – they can draw on their own experiences or refer to media reports.
- Ask each group of students to nominate a spokesperson to present their list to the class.
- This exercise is likely to raise a series of questions that students might like to ask the firefighter during the school visit.