

# HOME FIRE SAFETY

TEACHER LESSON PLAN  
LEVELS 3 & 4

## OVERVIEW

This lesson plan is designed to help you teach students about home fire safety. Students will learn to identify and understand home fire hazards and learn how to prevent these hazards. Students are reminded to crawl low in smoke and exit the building as quickly as possible. More information about this is covered in *Get down low and go, go, go!* in Fire Safety Levels 1 and 2.

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- ✦ A copy of the *Home Hotspots* Poster
- ✦ Copies of the *Home Fire Escape Plan* worksheet
- ✦ Coloured pencils

### OPTIONAL MATERIALS

- ✦ For an alternative to the Home Hotspots Poster, you can refer to an online, interactive version found on the CFA website [here](http://ausvels.vcaa.vic.edu.au)

## LESSON TOPICS

1. Home Fire Hazards

## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

This lesson has been mapped to Victoria's curriculum AusVELS.

The Learning Focus (LF) statements provide advice about learning experiences that will assist students to work towards the achievements of the Standards (S). Further connections can be found at [ausvels.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://ausvels.vcaa.vic.edu.au).

Levels	Physical, Personal and Social Learning	Interdisciplinary Learning
3 and 4	<p><b>Civics and Citizenship</b></p> <p>[Students] participate in activities to protect and care for the natural and built environment. (S)</p> <p><b>Health and Physical Education</b></p> <p>[Students] identify basic safety skills and strategies at home, school and in the community, and describe methods for recognising and avoiding harmful situations. (S)</p>	<p><b>Thinking Processes</b></p> <p>[Students] explore aspects of their natural, constructed and social world, wondering and developing questions about it. They use a range of sources of information including observations and findings from their own investigations to answer these questions. (LF)</p>

Sourced from [ausvels.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://ausvels.vcaa.vic.edu.au) June 2014.



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## HOME FIRE HAZARDS

30 MINUTES

### 1. Identifying fire hazards at home.

Ask the students, 'What are some ways we use fire at home?' Prompt them with options such as:

- ✦ 'We use flame in the kitchen when our parents are cooking.'
- ✦ 'Sometimes we keep warm by an open fireplace,'; or
- ✦ 'Candles are sometimes lit around the house.'

Then ask them:

- ✦ 'What could happen if we left a candle burning overnight?'; or
- ✦ 'What might happen if we forgot about a pot on a stove burner?'

Explain if they are not careful with how they use fire at home, it can be dangerous or 'hazardous' for us.

Ask the students, 'What are some other fire hazards at home?' Prompt them with options such as – clothing hanging near an open flame, fireplace or heater; a broken electrical appliance; curtains next to a candle; or a build up of lint inside a clothes dryer.

### 2. Preventing fires at home

Ask the students, 'What are some ways we can help prevent fires at home?'

Explain to them that home fires start quickly if they and their family don't take care. Preventing fires at home is something we all can do, in simple ways. Some of these include – having a working smoke alarm in each room where people sleep, making sure we aren't using broken electrical equipment, keeping clothing at safe distance (at least one metre) from an open fire or heater, and having a fire escape plan.

### 3. Get down low and go, go, go.

Ask students, 'Who remembers *get down low, and go go go*?' Remind them of the *get low and go, go go* method for escaping a fire at home. Explain that they should:

- ✦ Get down low close to the floor (because heat and smoke rises, it is easier to breathe near the ground)
- ✦ Crawl towards an exit door as quickly as they can, yelling to alert others as they go
- ✦ Use the back of their hand to feel if the door is hot. If it is, they should choose another door or window because there could be fire on the other side
- ✦ Leave the building and find a safe place to wait for help
- ✦ Never go back inside a burning house.



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## HOME HOTSPOT ACTIVITY

30 MINUTES

Using the *Home Hotspot poster*, read through each fire hazard displayed in each room. Alternatively, you may choose to go onto the [CFA website](#) to show students the [Home Hotspot interactive](#) online version. Select each 'hot spot', allowing students to read out the points displayed in the text bubble.

## HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN ACTIVITY

30 MINUTES

Hand out copies of the *Home Fire Escape Plan*. Ask students to draw an outline of their homes, marking all the exits in the house and at least two ways out of each room. They should also choose a safe meeting place outside of their home such as – the letter box, the next door neighbour or friend's house.



## CHECK YOUR HOTSPOTS

### Smoke alarms

- Test and clean regularly.
- At least one on each level.
- One in every bedroom where someone sleeps with the door closed.

### Heaters

- Install, maintain and operate according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Keep 1 metre clear space around.
- Turn off before going to bed or going out.

### Candles

- Keep away from curtains.
- Always use on non-combustible surfaces.

### Kitchen

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep combustibles such as tea towels and curtains away from cooking and heat sources.
- Keep pot handles turned in.

### Laundry

- Clean the lint filter on your clothes dryer after each load.
- Let the dryer complete its cooldown cycle before stopping.

### Front door

- Never deadlock doors when you're at home and keep keys in deadlock when home.
- Develop and practise your home fire escape plan – have two ways to escape each room and a designated safe meeting point outside your home, e.g. letterbox.

### Open fire place

- Always use a fire screen in front of an open fire.
- Put out fires before going to bed or going out.
- Keep 1 metre clear space around.

### Chimneys and flues

- Clean yearly.

### Bedroom

- Never smoke in bed.

### Electric blankets

- Turn on no more than 30 minutes before bed. Turn off before you get into bed.
- Remove heavy items from bed when on.
- Keep flat with controls at the side of the bed.
- Regularly check for broken and worn wiring.

## Remember...

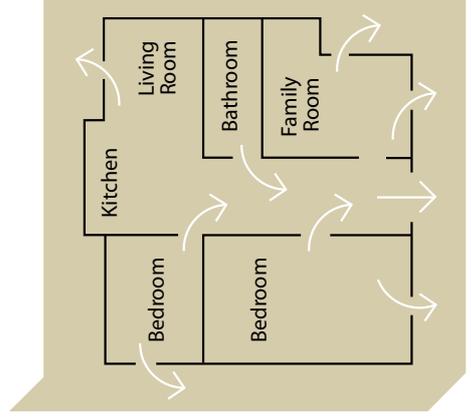
- Supervise children near heating equipment.
- Turn off electrical appliances at the power point when not in use.
- Keep electrical appliances and equipment in good working order.
- Replace damaged equipment e.g. power cords.
- Don't overload power boards.
- Have and know how to use your fire blanket and extinguisher.



# YOUR HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN



- Draw your home floor plan in the grid and mark all the exits.
- Identify two ways out of every room.
- Decide on an outside meeting place, such as the letterbox.
- Practise your home fire escape plan regularly with the whole family.
- Keep this plan handy to remind everyone of the safe exits in case of fire.

A large, empty grid of small squares, intended for drawing a home floor plan. The grid is composed of 20 columns and 30 rows of squares, providing a structured space for users to map out their homes and mark escape routes.