

SUMMER FIRE SAFETY

LESSONS FOR
YEARS 3 & 4

OVERVIEW

These fire safety lessons include an introduction to bushfire safety. It outlines how students can prepare themselves to be ready during the summer fire season. Being fire ready includes reading fire danger signs and acting on cues such as Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Ban signs in the students' own location. Students are taught the different Fire Danger Ratings, what each level means, and what activities they can and cannot do on days of Total Fire Ban. They will also learn about bushfire survival plans.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Copies of *Spot the Summer Fire Hazards* worksheet
- A copy of the *Fire Weather Districts* poster
- Coloured pencils

LESSON TOPICS

1. Summer Fire Awareness
2. Fire Danger Signs
3. Getting Ready Early

OPTIONAL MATERIALS

- For more information on the Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans, see the cfa.vic.gov.au

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

This content has been mapped to the Victorian Curriculum. The Victorian Curriculum F–10 incorporates the Australian Curriculum and reflects Victorian priorities and standards.

Civics and Citizenship	<p>Level 3 and 4</p> <p>Distinguish between rules and laws and discuss why rules and laws are important</p>
Geography	<p>Levels 3 and 4</p> <p>Represent data and the location of places and their characteristics by constructing tables and simple graphs and maps of appropriate scale that conform to cartographic conventions of border, scale, legend, title and north point</p> <p>Elaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making a plan of the classroom or home, using pictorial symbols <p>Collect and record relevant geographical data and information from the field and other sources</p>

Sourced from victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au August 2017.



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SUMMER FIRE AWARENESS

50 MINUTES

1. What is a bushfire?

Introduce the topic by asking students, **'Who knows what a bushfire, grassfire or coastal scrub fire** (use the appropriate term for your location) **is?'** Once they have explored this, offer this explanation: a bushfire is a freely burning, uncontrolled and unplanned fire which needs to be extinguished especially if it is threatening houses or people. If it is windy, bushfires can spread very quickly.

2. How do they start?

Ask students, **'How do these fires start?'** After they have had a chance to offer their explanations, let them know that fires happen in hot dry weather and can be caused by dry lightning storms, fallen powerlines or human activity such as out-of-control campfires, sparking angle grinders or arson. Fires can happen anywhere (in country areas as well as in the suburbs) but they happen more often in vegetated areas, or in areas where there is lots of dry grass, paddocks, parkland or coastal scrub.

3. What are the different fire types?

Explain that there are different types of fires:

- Grassfires – that burn quickly through fine fuel
- Bushfires – burn very hot with both fine and heavy fuels
- Coastal scrub fires – very hot fires fanned by ocean winds

Spot fires are small fires that happen ahead of the main fire front, due to burning pieces of bark, leaves or twigs (which are known as embers) being picked up by winds.

4. What are the impacts of bushfires?

Ask students **'What are the things that could happen in a bushfire?'**

Make a list of them on the whiteboard. Prompt them with some possible impacts, such as – potential loss of life (people, pets and livestock); houses and properties being damaged or destroyed; and environmental damage to parklands and forests. Not all fires are considered to be bad, as much of the native Australian vegetation needs fire to regenerate.

5. Activity

Hand out copies of *Spot the Fire Danger* Activity worksheet. Tell students they should circle what they think the fire hazard is in the picture, and write down how to deal with the hazard. After they have finished, get them to help you identify each hazard and a preventative measure as you write it on the whiteboard. Make sure everyone fills in their own worksheets.



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GETTING READY EARLY

45 MINUTES

1. Preparing for a Fire

Explain that fires can start and spread very quickly so people need to be prepared to leave the area early. This is especially important in summer because of the hot, dry weather. Emphasise that the safest way for them to protect themselves against a fire, is if they are prepared early and know what to do. Ask the students, **'What are some ways we can prepare for a fire?'**

Provide some examples of ways to prepare such as:

- Keeping properties tidy, maintaining grass, leaves, or wood
- Having a Bushfire Survival Plan
- Leaving early on fire risk days

2. Bushfire Survival Plans

Having a Bushfire Survival Plan is a good way for everyone to be ready for the fire season. Ask students **'What do you think a Bushfire plan is?'** Explain that every family will have a different plan because we all live in different houses and different areas, but some things their plan should include are:

- Their trigger for enacting their plan – based on the Fire Danger Rating
- Knowing when their family should leave their home - early in the morning or the night before
- Knowing which safe place their family will go to – a friend or family member's house in a safer area
- Listing what things you will take with you, what is important to you, and what to bring for your pets or livestock
- Pre-packing important items in an Emergency Kit

3. Activity

Suggest your students draw an outline of their house and property on a piece of paper. Tell them to walk around and note any potential fire hazards around their home, or on their property, on this drawing. Tell them to discuss what they find with their family and decide what they could do to protect their homes and make them more fire safe.

Note: For more information on preparing for a fire, leaving early and Bushfire Survival Plans you can refer to the *CFA Fire Ready Kit* available at cfa.vic.gov.au.



SPOT THE FIRE DANGERS

Can you spot the 8 hazards? Write down each hazard and what you think this family should do to keep their house safe.



- 1: _____
- 2: _____
- 3: _____
- 4: _____
- 5: _____
- 6: _____
- 7: _____
- 8: _____



SPOT THE FIRE DANGERS

ANSWER SHEET



- 1: **Branches touching the house.** Branches overhanging the house should be cut
- 2: **Leaves in the gutters.** Gutters should be cleaned
- 3: **Long grass.** Grass should be kept trimmed
- 4: **Firewood stacked against the house.** Firewood should be stored away from the house
- 5: **Piles of leaves in the garden.** Leaves should be collected and placed in the compost bin
- 6: **Doormat in front of door.** The flammable doormat should be replaced with a steel grate
- 7: **Broken wooden fence.** The fence should be repaired or replaced with a steel wire fence
- 8: **Fuel stored in front of garage.** Fuel should be stored under cover in the garage

*Get the students to talk to their families about these points.





KNOW YOUR FIRE WEATHER DISTRICT

Mallee District

Buloke Shire
Gannawarra Shire
Mildura Rural City
Swan Hill Rural City
Yarriambiack Shire
(north of the netting fence)

Wimmera District

Hindmarsh Shire
Horsham Rural City
Northern Grampians Shire
West Wimmera Shire
Yarriambiack Shire
(south of the netting fence)

South West District

Ararat Rural City
Colac Otway Shire
Corangamite Shire
Glenelg Shire
Moynes Shire
Pyrenees Shire
Southern Grampians Shire
Warrnambool City

Northern Country District

Campaspe Shire
Greater Bendigo City
Greater Shepparton City
Loddon Shire
Moira Shire
Strathbogie Shire

North Central District

Central Goldfields Shire
Lake Mountain Alpine Resort
Mitchell Shire
Mount Alexander Shire
Murrindindi Shire

North East District

Alpine Shire
Benalla Rural City
Falls Creek Alpine Resort
Indigo Shire
Mansfield Shire
Mount Buller Alpine Resort
Mount Hotham Alpine Resort
Mount Stirling Alpine Resort
Towong Shire
Wangaratta Rural City
Wodonga City

Central District

Ballarat City
Banyule City
Bass Coast Shire
Bayside City
Boroondara City
Brimbank City
Cardinia Shire
Casey City
Darebin City
Frankston City
French Island
Glen Eira City
Golden Plains Shire
Greater Dandenong City
Greater Geelong City
Hepburn Shire
Hobsons Bay City
Hume City
Kingston City
Knox City
Macedon Ranges Shire
Manningham City
Maribymong City
Maroondah City
Melbourne City
Melton Shire
Monash City

Moonee Valley City
Moorabool Shire
Moreland City
Mornington Peninsula Shire
Nillumbik Shire
Port Phillip City
Queenscliffe Borough
Stonnington City
Surf Coast Shire
Whitehorse City
Whittlesea City
Wyndham City
Yarra City
Yarra Ranges Shire

West & South Gippsland District

Baw Baw Shire
Latrobe City
Mount Baw Baw Alpine Resort
South Gippsland Shire
Wellington Shire

East Gippsland District

East Gippsland Shire



KNOW YOUR RESTRICTIONS

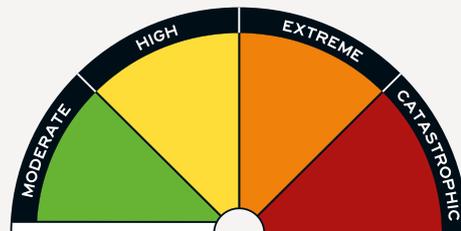


TOTAL FIRE BAN

Total Fire Bans tell you what you can and can't do to prevent a fire starting and what activities are banned. They are legal restrictions which if broken can be penalised with large fines and imprisonment.



KNOW YOUR DAILY FIRE DANGER RATING



Fire Danger Ratings (FDR) tell you how dangerous a fire would be if one started – the higher the rating, the more dangerous the conditions. Check your district's rating every day during summer. The rating is your trigger to act.

CHECK THE SIGNS. KNOW WHEN TO GO.

cfa.vic.gov.au | VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226