

SUMMER FIRE SAFETY

LESSONS FOR YEARS 7-10



Teaching with the CFA Fire Ready Kit

All parts of our community – governments, schools, households, individuals and communities and their leaders – can work together to help current and future generations learn to live safely with fire. *Summer Fire Safety* is a simple resource designed to help you teach students about bushfire safety using the *CFA Fire Ready Kit* booklet. You do not need to be an expert, or cover every aspect of bushfire safety, to help make your students and school community safer. All of the latest information and advice is available in the *Fire Ready Kit* and on the CFA website. Students should be encouraged to share these resources at home and help their households to prepare for, and respond safely to, their local fire risk.

ABOUT THIS LESSON PLAN

This lesson plan includes the following teaching and learning activities and resources:

- Teacher-led introduction and Fire Ready Quiz
- Guided reading and questions to use with the *Fire Ready Kit* booklet
- Fire Danger Ratings class activity and photocopyable Fire Danger Rating sign
- Bushfire Survival Planning Templates – homework activity

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- *CFA Fire Ready Kit*
 - Copies can be downloaded from cfa.vic.gov.au
- *Are You Fire Ready?* student handout – one copy per student
- Copies of the Fire Danger Rating sign (optional)
- Internet access (optional)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To increase student knowledge and understanding of:

- Fire risk and fire-prone environments
- The Fire Danger Rating system
- How fire behaviour is influenced by fuel, weather and topography
- Bushfire survival planning
- Actions individuals and households can take before and during the fire season



FIRE READY QUIZ

- 01 Victoria is one of the most fire-prone areas in the world?
TRUE or **FALSE**
- 02 People living in cities, towns and surrounding suburbs can be at risk of bushfire and grassfire.
TRUE or **FALSE**
- 03 After a wet winter there's far less chance of fires in summer.
TRUE or **FALSE**
- 04 Fire Danger Ratings can be different in each of the nine districts across the state.
TRUE or **FALSE**
- 05 Some kinds of barbecues are OK on a Total Fire Ban day.
TRUE or **FALSE**
- 06 I've cleared up around my property so I'm prepared for bushfire.
TRUE or **FALSE**
- 07 If a bushfire threatens, someone will tell me when it's time to leave.
TRUE or **FALSE**
- 08 It's too dangerous to stay and defend your home on a **Catastrophic** day.
TRUE or **FALSE**
- 09 If there is a bushfire or grassfire near my home a CFA fire truck or fire-fighting helicopter will always come and help.
TRUE or **FALSE**
- 10 You are young and cannot help yourself, your pets and the people you live with to be safe from bushfires.
TRUE or **FALSE**

GUIDED READING AND QUESTIONS

You will need a copy of the **CFA Fire Ready Kit**. A copy can be downloaded from cfa.vic.gov.au.

KNOW YOUR FIRE WEATHER DISTRICT (PAGE 1)

- 01 How many Fire Weather Districts are there in Victoria?
- 02 Which Fire Weather District is your home in?
- 03 Which Fire Weather District is your school in?

KNOW YOUR DAILY FIRE DANGER RATING (PAGE 2)

- 01 What does the Fire Danger Rating predict?
- 02 What does **Catastrophic** mean?
- 03 What should people do when the Fire Danger Rating **Catastrophic** is forecast?
- 04 What does 'wait and see' mean? (Hint: see page 12)

Introduction: AM I AT RISK? (PAGE 5)

- 01 Which environment presents the most extreme risk?
- 02 Which of the four environments best describes where you live?
- 03 Study the illustration of the 'near coastal scrub' environment on page 8. If a fire was to start, what problems might there be getting to the beach?

Section One: YOUR BUSHFIRE PLAN: THE BASICS (PAGE 11)

- 01 Who needs to plan ahead for the fire season?
- 02 What does leaving early mean?
- 03 Why should you leave early?
- 04 How many 'key decisions' need to be made as a minimum before the fire season? List three.
- 05 Study the 'Your Emergency Kit' on page 16. What other things would you want to take with you if you had to leave early?

Section Two: ON FIRE RISK DAYS: LEAVING EARLY (PAGE 17)

- 01 What should you check each day?
- 02 What do you need to do when the Fire Danger Rating (FDR) reaches your trigger point?

Section Three:

DURING A FIRE: IF YOU CANNOT LEAVE

(PAGE 21)

- 01 What is radiant heat? (See page 24 and 43)
- 02 What are some of the ways you can protect yourself from radiant heat?
- 03 What is the 'only sure way' to survive a fire and avoid radiant heat? (See page 24)

Section Four:

STAYING INFORMED (PAGE 29)

- 01 CFA suggest you make a habit of doing what during the fire season?
- 02 How are warnings different to Fire Danger Ratings? (See page 32)
- 03 Why is it dangerous to rely on an official warning? (See page 33)

Section Five:

PREPARING YOUR PROPERTY (PAGE 37)

- 01 A fire will burn faster uphill. True or False (See page 40)
- 02 Fires often start on hot, dry and windy days. In Victoria, hot, dry winds typically come from which direction? Why is a south-west wind change so dangerous?
- 03 Study the picture on page 46 and 47. How short should grass be kept? What should you do with dry grass, leaves, twigs and loose bark?

Section Six:

DEFENDING YOUR PROPERTY (PAGE 57)

- 01 What is required to defend a home?
- 02 What are some of the risks of defending your home?
- 03 Are most houses in high-risk areas built to withstand fires on **Catastrophic** days?

