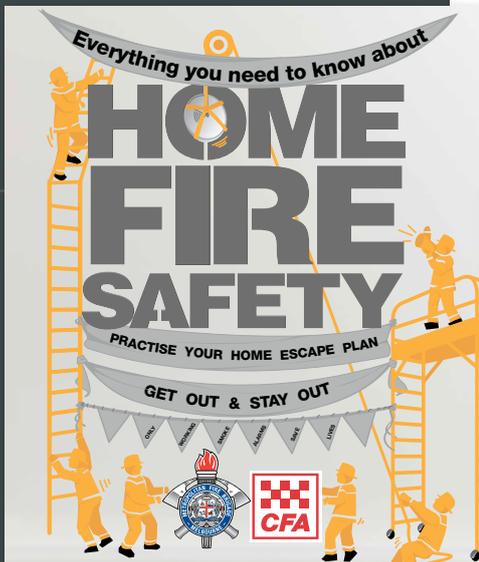


HOME FIRE SAFETY

LESSONS FOR
YEARS 3 & 4



OVERVIEW

These fire safety lessons have been designed to help you teach students about home fire safety. Students will learn to identify common home fire hazards and 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 *Home Fire Safety Lessons* for Year 1 & 2.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- A copy of the *Home Fire Safety Checklist* handout
- Copies of the *Your Home Fire Escape Plan* worksheet
- Coloured pencils

LESSON TOPICS

1. Home Fire Hazards
2. Home Hotspots
3. Home Fire Escape Plans

OPTIONAL MATERIALS

- For an alternative to the *Home Fire Safety Checklist* handout, you can refer to an online, interactive version found on the CFA Website 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.

Health and Physical Education	<p>Levels 3 and 4</p> <p>Describe and apply strategies that can be used in situations that make them feel uncomfortable or unsafe</p> <p>Identify and practise strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing</p> <p>Elaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore and practise strategies that could be used to make the home and school environment safer
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

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



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HOME FIRE HAZARDS

50 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 a fireplace.'**
- **'Candles are sometimes lit around the house.'**

Then ask them:

- **'What could happen if we left a candle burning overnight?'**
- **'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.

[Home Fire Safety booklet](#)

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 near 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. It is law in Victoria to have at least one smoke alarm on each level of every home.

3. Get Down Low and Go, Go, Go!

Ask students, **'Who remembers Get Down Low and Go Go Go?'** Remind them of the *Get Down 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 where the air is cleaner).
- 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. Explain that you must always use the back of your hand rather than the palm, as the back of your hand is more sensitive, especially to temperature.
- Leave the building and find a safe place to wait for help.
- Never go back inside a burning house.



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HOME HOTSPOTS

50 MINUTES

Using the *Home Fire Safety Checklist* handout, 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. Discuss with your students each of these hotspots and how they can relate this to their own home.

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLANS

50 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. It is important to have two ways out of each room, in case one way is blocked by fire. They should also choose a safe meeting place outside of their home such as the letter box or the next door neighbour. It is important that you get out and stay out. Never go back inside. Call Triple Zero (000) from a mobile phone or a neighbours phone, and ask for FIRE.

Get Down Low and Go, Go, Go!

Ask students, '**Who remembers Get Down Low and Go Go Go?**' Remind them of the *Get Down 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 where the air is cleaner).
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- Leave the building and find a safe place to wait for help.
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HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

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.

Chimneys and flues

- Clean yearly.

Bedroom

- Never smoke in bed.
- Don't leave laptops on 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.

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

Front door

- Never deadlock doors when you're at home. If you must keep doors deadlocked, leave your keys in the lock.
- 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.

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.
- Keep grills, fans and cooking surfaces free of grease residue.

Laundry

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

Remember...

- > If your smoke alarms have removable batteries replace them every year.
- > 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.

