



CIGARETTE SAFETY LESSON PLAN

The lessons taught in a classroom often reach well beyond the surrounding walls. Help your students stay safe at home by teaching them about fire safety and prevention. This cigarette safety lesson plan and the corresponding activities will help teach your students the importance of knowing what to do if there is a fire. Remember...knowledge is the most precious gift we can give them.

Objectives

- Understand the dangers of careless smoking
- Understand how a fire-safe cigarette works
- Understand how to prevent smoking-related fires
- Understand the importance of having enough working smoke alarms installed in the home.

Needed materials

- Tips to Prevent Cigarette-Related Fires Handout
- Pen or pencil
- Smoke alarm

LESSON PLAN

Introduction

- Cigarettes are the #1 cause of fatal home fires in the U.S., taking 700 to 800 lives a year.
- The most common material first ignited in home smoking -related fires is trash, followed by mattresses, bedding and upholstered furniture.
- Preliminary studies by the New York Office of Fire Prevention and Control showed a one-third reduction in cigarette-related fire deaths since New York approved its fire-safe cigarette mandate in 2004.
- Having enough working smoke alarms increases the likelihood families will survive a structural fire. Yet, while more than 90 percent of U.S. homes have at least one smoke alarm, studies indicate about one-third of them are inoperable due to age, or dead or missing batteries.

Discussion Points

What is a fire-safe cigarette and how does it work?

- Fire-safe cigarettes are less likely to ignite flammable furniture or mattress material when carelessly discarded.
- Fire-safe cigarettes have a smaller diameter and filter tip.

- Three paper bands called "speed bumps" stop the cigarette from burning when left unattended.
- Less porous paper reduces the amount of oxygen that can reach the tobacco, forcing the cigarette to burn at a lower temperature.
- All of these components create a cigarette that doesn't produce enough heat to ignite a flammable surface, even if it falls onto a sofa or mattress.

How to prevent smoking-related fires:

- Distribute handouts
- Review handouts with class

Other measures to prevent fire tragedies:

Smoke Alarms-

- Install a smoke alarm in every room of your home, including every bedroom. Test them frequently and change the batteries as needed. Replace alarms every 10 years.
- For maximum protection, install alarms with photoelectric and ionization technology, which may provide the best opportunity of detecting either smoldering or fast-flaming fires sooner.
- Be sure everyone in the home knows what the smoke alarm sounds like and what they should do if the alarm sounds.

Home Escape Plan-

- Develop and practice an escape plan with the whole family.
- Plan two exit routes for each room, and practice your plan at night to mimic the most difficult fire situation you might encounter.
- Identify a location outside the home where everyone will meet, and never re-enter a burning building.

Fire Extinguisher-

- Keep a fire extinguisher within easy reach in the rooms where fires are most likely to start – the kitchen, bedroom, living room, laundry room and any room with a chimney.
- When purchasing a fire extinguisher, choose the largest size that can be handled comfortably.
- Use a fire extinguisher when the fire is small and contained, to create an escape path to safety, or when there is a clear exit behind you. Always call the fire department before you try to extinguish the fire yourself.

Instructor's Note

Show students how to test a smoke alarm and change the batteries.

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Additional Activities

Visit www.FireFYI.org or www.kidde.com for more fire safety information.