

# Fire Safety 1



# Fire Safety

## Purpose

**To recognise fire emergency situations.**

**To plan actions in the event of a fire.**

## Entrance of Pupils

*A thought provoking slideshow introducing the theme of Fire Safety for the pupils to enter assembly to (10 minutes)*

## Introduction

Every year there are more than 40,000 accidental house fires in England resulting in about 285 deaths and 9,000 people injured.

## Main Causes of House Fires

### Smoking

According to the fire service, 50% of deaths in house fires since 2009 were caused by smoking materials. Smoking still accounts for a huge number of fires in the UK. A simple mistake from irresponsible smoking around the house could burn down your property.

As much as possible avoid people smoking inside the house, especially when the smoker is feeling sleepy or has had several alcoholic drinks.



## Cooking

Kitchen fires account for a large percentage of accidental home fires making it by far the most dangerous cause of household fires in the UK. If you get distracted, forgotten cooking appliances may overheat and easily cause fires.

Never leave cooking appliances unattended even for just the briefest of moments. Turn the oven down and take pans off the hob. As for using a chip pan, never fill it more than one-third full with oil and never throw water onto it because if it does ignite, throwing water onto an oil fire will actually make it worse.

Make sure a fire blanket or extinguisher is nearby in case the worst does happen.



## Heating Systems

About 12.5% of residential house fires start from home heating systems. A portable heater has an operating temperature that is high enough to cause ignition, therefore dangerous when used near flammable materials like furniture, curtains or clothes.



## Candles

Candles can be found in every household. They are not only used to give off that romantic vibe but are also very relaxing especially the scented ones as their scent fills the room. As much as candles can relax us when we are in a tensed state, they still account for many household fires especially when left unattended.

## Appliances

Substandard and damaged appliances as well as an overloaded extension cord also account for a large number of house fires in the UK.

Always remember not to overuse an extension cord. Household fires can easily start from overlooking this simple point. Avoid using dishwashers, washing machines, and tumble dryers when you're asleep or away from home. Make it a habit to always check your appliances regularly for any signs of damage, it only takes seconds but can save a lot of grief and cost.



## Children

Young children can be oblivious to any consequences of their actions and could start a fire when getting their hands on flammable materials such as lighters, matches and candles.

Be responsible and keep anything that may cause house fires out of the reach of children.



## Fireworks, Bonfires and Chinese Lanterns

We love to use fire to celebrate throughout the year. Bonfire Night is a firm favourite; New Year; Chinese New Year; birthdays; weddings and many other happy moments.

We must be very careful to use fireworks as instructed (*see more on Bonfire Night Assembly*) and remember the danger to the environment that an out of control bonfire or a stray Chinese lantern can cause.



## Christmas Tree Lights

Equally, faulty Christmas Tree lights can be extremely dangerous. Both artificial and real Christmas trees can catch fire

Watch this film of a controlled experiment and notice how quickly the tree ignites and the fire takes hold of a real dry tree and how this compares with a real tree that is watered daily.

Keep your eye on the clock at the bottom of the screen

### *You tube national fire protection association (1 minute 32 Secs)*

Some artificial trees have been sprayed with a fire retardant that helps to slow down the spread of fire, but it will not STOP a fire from catching hold completely.

Remember to always turn off the Christmas tree lights if there is no one in the room and especially at night or when going out.



## Intentional Fires (Arson)

Accidents are not always the reason for household fires it is frightening to know that 4.2% of house fires are actually set intentionally.

## How a Fire Spreads

See You Tube Video either:

*360 House fire demonstration—movie master 2008—2 mins 34 secs*

Or

*Bedroom fire test—Lancashire fire 7 years ago—3 mins and 57 secs*



## The Danger of Smoke Inhalation

More than half of fire-related deaths result from smoke inhalation. Smoke inhalation occurs when you breathe in harmful smoke particles and gases. Inhaling harmful smoke can inflame your lungs and airway, causing them to swell and block oxygen. This can lead to acute respiratory distress syndrome and respiratory failure.

Smoke inhalation commonly happens when you get trapped in a contained area, such as a kitchen or home, near a fire.



## **Making a Fire Safety Plan with the Family**

- Sit down with the family and discuss fire and how quickly it can take hold: even a small fire can spread in minutes.
- You will need to know about the lethal effects of smoke inhalation – more than half of all fire fatalities are the result of smoke inhalation – as well as the more obvious danger of burns.
- Agree on a fire safety plan including an escape route and what to do if there is a fire.
- Make sure everybody knows how to use any fire equipment you have (see Fire Safety Products below). If necessary, write the fire plan down as a reminder.

## **What to Include in your Family's Fire Safety Plan:**

### **A. Fire Escape Route and Refuge**

- Agree your first escape route – the best option is the normal route in and out of the home.
- Choose a second escape route to use if the first one is blocked and keep both routes clear of obstructions.
- Decide where to meet outside, by a lamp post, in a neighbour's garden etc.
- If you can't get out via any planned escape route, you will need to have an agreed room where you can all take refuge – a room with a window and a phone is the most suitable. It is good practice to have an escape window in every bedroom. Building Regulations for new two storey dwellings state that all habitable rooms on the first floor and all inner rooms (those entered via another room) must be provided with an escape window.
- Everyone should know where the keys for doors and windows are kept. Make sure children know never to move them when playing.



## **B. What to Do if There is a Fire**

1. **Get Everyone Out** – the most important thing to remember in a fire is to get out fast. Make sure everyone in the house knows about the fire. Shout and get everyone together.
2. **Be Quick** – tell children never to go looking for favourite toys, clothes or pets and never try to investigate or put out the fire.
3. **Shut all Doors** – only open the doors you need to, to get out. Close any open doors and if you need to open a door, check it with the back of your hand. If it is warm don't open it, as the fire is probably on the other side.
4. **Beware of Smoke** – smoke is poisonous and can kill you, and children are more susceptible because their lungs are smaller. Crawl on the floor, where the air is cleaner, and keep your nose as low as possible.
5. **Call the Emergency Services** – once you're out safely, call the fire brigade, ambulance and police as necessary. Don't panic and try to speak clearly, giving the address and explaining whether anyone is trapped. It is worth teaching your children what to say in case of emergency for situations like this. **Never Go Back in** – ensure children know never to go back, even if they think someone is still in there. They will endanger their own lives and hamper the rescue.

## **C. What if the Escape Routes are Blocked?**

If the fire is between you and your escape route, you have to decide what to do:

### 1. **Window.**

You may be able to escape through a window if it is on the ground floor. Only escape from a first floor window as a last resort. If you have to choose this option, there are few steps you can take to keep you and the family from serious harm:

- Cushion your fall with bedding, pillows and anything soft
- Don't jump, lower yourself by the arms from the window ledge
- If there are two adults, one should go down first to catch children while the other should lower the children as far as possible before letting them drop
- It may be worth investing in a fire safety ladder for your own piece of mind.



## 2. If you Can't Escape Through a Window.

You need to keep safe together in the building. Choose a room – you may have agreed this in your escape plan – with a window and a phone. Shut the door and seal it with bedding/cushions to block out the smoke. Open the window and call for help, lean out if you need to breathe and keep drawing attention to yourself.

## 3. Fire Safety Products

- Smoke Alarms and Smoke Detectors – these are more important than fire extinguishers. A quarter of all people killed in home fires are asleep at the time. A smoke alarm with a working battery would have saved almost all of them.
- Fire Blankets – they are good to use on fat pan fires on the cooker or for wrapping round someone whose clothing is on fire, which are good for the kitchen, but not general use. If you buy one, make sure it conforms to British Standard BS 6575.
- Fire Extinguishers – small fire extinguishers are available to tackle a variety of fire types, but no single type is totally effective on every type of fire, so consider carefully before you buy. If you have one, make sure all responsible family members know how to use it and that small children know never to touch it. Position it somewhere you can get to it quickly, like the hall or landing, and never try to tackle a fire unless you feel it is safe to do so.
- Fire Ladders – these are compact ladders, which come in a variety of lengths, and can be stored under a bed or on a landing and unrolled in case of an emergency escape through an upstairs window.



## **Fire Safety Precautions in Places other than the Home**

### **Schools**

- All schools have plans and practices for what to do in a potential fire. It is really important to take Fire Safety Tests seriously .
- NEVER tamper with safety equipment such as extinguishers—these could be needed to save a life.
- NEVER set off a fire alarm as a ‘joke’.

### **Public Places**

- All public buildings must have fire escape routes. Exit signs and assembly points clearly indicated.
- Follow these and the instructions of officials in a calm, safe and purposeful manner.
- Running and panicking can cause more harm and result in highly dangerous crushing.
- Use staircases not lifts as there is always a risk of being trapped in a lift.
- Be aware of those that may be disabled or needing help to leave a building.

### **Danger of Hoax Calls**

It is always better to make a genuine 999 call than to risk a potentially dangerous situation getting worse. No one will be angry if it turns out not to be an emergency. This is very different to making a hoax call.

A hoax call is deliberately calling out an emergency service as a joke. This is so dangerous. For example, a fire engine called out for a hoax may mean that those genuinely needing help are left longer in danger. Not only does this cost thousands of wasted pounds, but it could result in a death elsewhere.



## The Bible Says

Fire is used in all religions as a symbol. It is seen in many ways :

For Christians, Buddhists and Jews it can represent a divine figure and also faith to the point of martyrdom. We think how God appeared to Moses in the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:2) or how the pillar of fire led the Israelites to the Promised Land (Exodus 13:21-22).

In Egyptian culture it represents superiority and control—power.

For others, fire is viewed as wisdom and knowledge.

Christians remember the story of the Holy Spirit visiting the Apostles after the death of Jesus and the symbol of fire empowers the disciples with strength, courage and communication:

‘When the day of Pentecost came, all believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.’

**Acts 2:1-4**



## Let's Pray

Dear God

**Thank you for the gift of fire. Without this, so many things would not be possible. Help me to remember both the positive and the dangerous nature of this gift and not misuse it or underestimate its power.**

Amen



## Putting It Into Practice

With your family and using details from this lesson / assembly, make a fire Safety Plan for your home.

## Exit of Pupils

*A thought provoking slideshow of the key issues raised in the assembly about the theme of Fire Safety for the pupils to exit assembly to (10 minutes)*

## Collective Worship and Putting it into Practice for the Rest of the Week

### Day 2

Dear God

We pray for all those who have been the victim of fire and have been hurt through smoke inhalation or burned.

Amen

**With a friend or adult, practice improvising an emergency call for a variety of situations. This will give you more confidence to make that call should you ever need to .**

### Day 3

Dear God

We thanks you for all those people who help to deal with fire emergencies, especially the Fire Service, Police and Hospital workers.

Amen

**Design an adverting campaign to explain why making hoax calls is so dangerous. You may write a play, an acrostic poem or a poster.**



## Day 4

Dear God

We often use the beauty of fire to light up our celebrations with bonfires, fireworks, Chinese lanterns and candles.

Help us to remember to use these with great care to be safe to ourselves and our environment.

Amen



Research the other work that is undertaken by the Fire Service. In groups, write a small piece about one element to make up a large class display.

## Day 5

Dear God

We know that there are many uses of fire throughout all religions and beliefs. It is one of the symbols that reminds us of the similarities in our cultures.

May it remind us to appreciate each others' faiths.

Amen

Investigate what qualifications, characteristics and qualities you would need to have to choose a job in the fire service either as a fire fighter or as a call operator.

