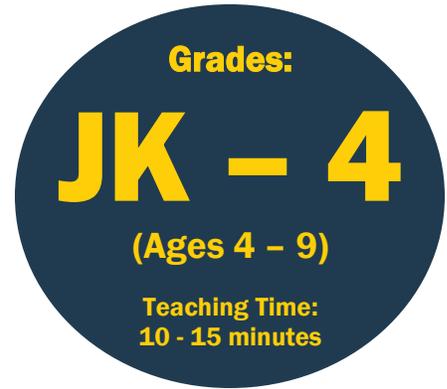


Lesson Plan: Home Fire Escape Plans



Topics Covered in this Lesson:

- Why smoke alarms are important.
- What to do when the smoke alarms sound.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan with everyone at home.

Audience:

- Children in Grades JK to 4 (ages 4 to 9).

Objectives:

- Students understand the importance of smoke alarms and what to do when they sound in an emergency.
- Students will take the home fire escape planning grid home and develop and practice a home fire escape plan with everyone in their home.

Materials:

- smoke alarm; home fire escape planning grid; *Fire Safety in High-Rise Buildings* information sheet.

Introduction: (1 minute)

- Introduce yourself and briefly tell the students what you do at the fire department.
- Tell the students you will be talking about some very important fire safety topics that will help keep them and their families safe from fire.

Topic #1: What are Smoke Alarms (5 minutes)

- Hold up the smoke alarm.
- Ask the students if they know what it is and what it does.
- Tell the students that if there is a fire in their home, there will be smoke. Tell them that the smoke alarm will go off so that everyone in the home knows there is a fire.
- Tell the students that it is very important that everyone in the home knows about a fire as soon as possible because fire and smoke spread very fast and are very dangerous. So everyone in the home needs to know that there is a fire, and know what to do, so they can escape safely.

Topic #2: The Sound Smoke Alarms Make and Home Fire Escape Planning (5-7 minutes)

- Ask the students if they know what a smoke alarm sounds like.
- Tell them that you are going to make the smoke alarm go off by pressing the test button.
- Tell the students that the sound will be very loud. Make sure they are prepared for the loud sound (for example, tell them they can cover their ears with their hands).
- Press the test button on the smoke alarm so the students hear the sound the alarm makes.
- Ask the students if they know what to do if the smoke alarms go off in their home.



- Tell the kids that if the smoke alarms sound in an emergency, everyone in their home needs to get out as quickly as possible. *(If there are kids who live in apartment or condo buildings, they will need to follow the fire safety procedures for their building. Tell those kids to talk to their parents/caregivers about what to do if their building's fire alarm system goes off. Parents of these kids should talk to their building superintendent to find out the fire safety procedures if there is a fire in their building.)*
- Explain to the students that their family should have a home fire escape plan so that everyone in their home knows how to escape if the smoke alarms go off.
- Tell the students that the plan should have two ways out of each room, if possible. The first way out would likely be the door, the second could be a window or another door.
- Tell the students that everyone should meet outside the home at a place that is a safe distance from the fire and that everyone knows/can find easily.
- Ask the students to give you a few examples of a good meeting place outside their home (such as a tree or a street light post).
- Tell the students that in a fire, smoke starts at the ceiling and comes down towards the floor. So if they discover smoke when trying to escape, they should get low and go under the smoke where the air is fresher.
- Tell the students that once they are out, they must stay out of a burning building. No one should EVER re-enter a burning building.

Grades:
JK – 4
(Ages 4 – 9)
Teaching Time:
10 - 15 minutes

Lesson Option: Home Fire Escape Plan Contest

Challenge schools to hold a **Home Fire Escape Plan Contest**. Teach this lesson plan in as many classes and grade levels in a school as you can. After teaching each lesson and handing out the home fire escape plan grid to all students, tell the students that they have to return a completed escape plan grid by the end of the week. Tell each class that you will come back at a later date and provide pizza for the class that returns the most completed escape plans.

Wrap-up: *(3 minutes)*

- Hand out the home fire escape planning grid to all students.
- Tell the students that they have learned some very important fire safety lessons today.
- Tell the students that you need their help. You need them to help keep their families at home safe from fire.
- Ask them to tell their parents/caregivers to test their smoke alarms at home that night to make sure they are working.
- Ask them to take the home fire escape planning grid home and make their parents/caregivers develop and practice an escape plan that night. This will help keep everyone safe from fire.
- If students live in an apartment or condo building, ask them to take home the *Fire Safety in High-Rise Buildings* information sheet and share it with everyone in their home.
- Thank the students for helping to keep their families safe from fire.

