



Bushfire Safety



Off to the Tip – Upper Primary

Introduction

The 'Off to the Tip' safety message explores the importance of preparing for bushfire season by managing (e.g. relocating, disposing of, or dispersing) flammable materials close to your home or sheds. This could include piled up branches, bark, leaves, twigs, heavy mulch and other wood piles.

This lesson should ideally be completed after the 'Raking up Twigs and Leaves' and 'What is a Spot Fire?' lessons.

It is recommended that you read the 'Background Information For Teachers' before undertaking this lesson.

Links to Australian Curriculum

Geography

- Understanding that environments are important to people and animals and that we have a responsibility to look after them.
- Recognising the impact that bushfires and other natural disasters have on environments and communities.
- Developing ideas about how to prepare and respond to natural disaster events.

Health and Physical Education

- Identify, plan and practise strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing of self and others in various situations.

English

- Accessing relevant prior knowledge or personal experiences to make meaningful connections to events, issues and ideas in a text.
- Sharing ideas and points of view relating to a text.



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Learning outcomes

Participating in this lesson will help students to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Students will learn about potential bushfire hazards around the home and how to manage them correctly.
- Students will learn how they can help protect their home from bushfire damage.

Resources

You will need:

- 'Off to the Tip' safety message video <http://vimeo.com/31114269> (running time: 30 sec)
- interactive whiteboard (IWB)
- pencils for drawing and colouring
- A4 paper (or relevant workbook)
- computers with the internet
- **'Managing Hazards'** activity sheet.

Lesson steps

As a class, watch the video, 'Off to the Tip' <http://vimeo.com/31114269>

Discuss:

- What was Amy's job?
- How was Maddie helping?
- Why were they taking the branches to the tip?
- Piled up branches can catch fire easily. What else can catch fire easily?
- What are some other dangers of leaving piles of branches lying around?
- Why is it important to prepare for bushfire season?

With a partner, students discuss what potential hazards they have in their yard, and why they could be bushfire hazards. Explain to students that hazards can even include small leaves and twigs (about the size of your finger), which are sometimes referred to as 'fine fuel' and can become embers (burning leaves or twigs that are carried by the wind and can cause spot fires).



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Students to create a scale drawing of their yard and label its features. Indicate any items or areas that may be bushfire hazards.

Once finished, share the illustrations and create a list some of the more common hazards (such as wood piles, gas bottles, overhanging branches etc.).

As a class, or in small groups, brainstorm ways in which each hazard could be managed. Management may include relocating items so they are away from buildings, tidying the yard or removing the items (using bins or the local tip). Record ideas. Ask students to think of places in their local area that provide disposal or collection options (this may require further research).

Students to complete the '**Managing Hazards**' activity sheet to list the hazards around their home, ways to manage them, and the person responsible for managing each hazard (this can be done as a homework task).

Repeat this activity for the school grounds. Develop a school 'Bushfire Hazard Management Plan'. This should involve the grounds person if applicable. Identify hazards that require regular attention (e.g. areas where large amounts of vegetation gathers) and create a class or student group roster to make sure they are managed.

Further activities

Here are some suggested extra activities to extend the students' learning.

- Invite someone from your local bushfire service to speak to the class about ways to prepare for bushfire season.
- Students to collect small twigs and leaves to use in a fire-themed creative arts project.
- Organise a trip to a local tip or recycling centre. Find out how it operates.

Extra resources

For more information visit your state or territory fire agency website:

- ACT Rural Fire Service
<https://esa.act.gov.au/actrfs/>
- Country Fire Authority (CFA)
<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/>
- Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service
www.pfes.nt.gov.au/Fire-and-Rescue.aspx
- NSW Rural Fire Service
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/



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- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)
www.qfes.qld.gov.au/
- South Australian Country Fire Service
www.cfs.sa.gov.au/
- Tasmania Fire Service
<http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/>
- WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
www.dfes.wa.gov.au/