

Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) Program

Supplemental Hazard Lesson: Fires
Instructor Guide



FEMA





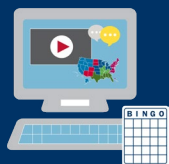

STEP SUPPLEMENTAL HAZARD LESSON: FIRES



The STEP Fires Supplemental Hazard Lesson will help students to:

- Identify ways to prevent fires in their homes
- Understand what to do if a fire occurs and how to escape safely
- Practice fire safety drills as preparation

Time: (30 min)

Key Messages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire is hot and can quickly create dark and deadly smoke.• Fires can start suddenly at any time, but you can reduce their likelihood by following fire prevention rules.• Knowing where windows and doors are, and having two ways out of each room can help you stay safe in the event of a fire.• Practicing an escape plan and identifying a meeting place can help you get out of your home more quickly and meet up with your family during a fire.
Skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science• Art• Preparedness• Identification• Real World Problem Solving
Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watch Disaster Dodgers Video: Fire Emergencies (3:15 min.)• Fire emergencies discussion and Qs/As• Fire Safety at Home activity
Materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AV and internet for video• Copies of fire safety activity• Markers, crayons, or colored pencils for each child

FIRES LESSON

This lesson takes a closer look at fire emergencies. The activities will allow students to better understand how to prevent fires at home, as well as how to escape if a fire breaks out.



Safety Tip: *Discussing disasters can trigger a strong emotional response in some students who have experienced a fire. Let the students know that it’s normal to feel anxious or stressed out sometimes and that everyone reacts differently to stressful situations. Suggest they talk to parents or other trusted adults if they are feeling upset. See page 7 of the STEP Instructor Guide for advice on safeguarding students as well as the book list on page 42 for resources on emotional resilience.*

Instructor Script: *Today we’re going to discuss a type of emergency that has several possible causes, including cooking, faulty electrical wiring, and careless behavior. Can anyone guess what emergency I’m talking about?*

Fire is the correct answer. I’m now going to show you a video about ways you can help keep yourself and your family safe if a fire occurs.

Activity 1: Disaster Dodgers Fire Emergencies Video

Action: Go to the FEMA YouTube Disaster Dodgers video channel, and play the **Fire Emergencies** video. You can also access it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCAqm8U8k60&list=PL720Kw_OoJlLXAc3P4kZMAbaQiyYCSXit&index=4.



Discussion Questions

Instructor Script: *The Disaster Dodgers discussed a lot of helpful information about preventing and staying safe in a fire. Let’s talk about some of the ideas.*



Action: Begin a general group discussion on fire. Consider asking the class if any students have experienced a fire and what they did.

QUESTIONS	POTENTIAL ANSWERS
The flames from a fire can be harmful. What are other things that can harm you even if you don’t see flames?	Heat and smoke can be even more dangerous than flames.

QUESTIONS	POTENTIAL ANSWERS
Why is smoke dangerous?	<p>Smoke can completely fill a room quickly, making it hard for people to find their way to safety.</p> <p>Smoke also makes it hard for someone to see and breathe.</p>
What is the FIRST thing you should do if a fire occurs?	Yell “fire” and get out as fast as you can.
What should you do if there is a lot of heat and/or smoke?	Get low and crawl toward the nearest exit not blocked by fire.
In the video, the Disaster Dodgers show how to touch a door with the back of your hand before you open it. Why?	A hot door can mean that there is fire on the other side. If a door is hot, DO NOT OPEN IT. Find another way out of the room. This may be a window. If you can’t get out, turn on the light and go to the window so you can be seen by firefighters.
Once outside, what should you do?	<p>Go to your family’s meeting place.</p> <p>Stay outside—don’t go back for any reason.</p> <p>Call 9-1-1 and report a fire. Tell the operator the location of the fire.</p>
We’ve just discussed what you should do after a fire occurs. What can you and your family do before a fire happens to make sure you are prepared?	<p>Create a family escape plan that includes windows, doors, and stairs in your home so you can leave quickly if there’s a fire. Don’t use your apartment’s elevator to escape. Use stairs instead.</p> <p>Test your smoke alarms every month. Change the battery once a year. Replace the alarms every 10 years. Make sure everyone knows the sound the smoke alarm makes.</p> <p>Hold a practice fire drill. Remind students about fire drills that have been held at school and tell them it’s also important for their family to practice getting out of the house. Follow up in a week to ask who has conducted a drill at home.</p>
What can you check for around your house to help prevent fires?	<p>Make sure there are no items that can catch fire around the stove. When you are cooking, never leave the house in case a fire begins.</p> <p>Do not run electric cords under rugs; check to make sure cords are not frayed or cracked.</p> <p>Clean the dryer lint filter after every load.</p> <p>Do not light candles when there’s a power outage. Know where your flashlights are or use battery-operated candles.</p> <p>If using space heaters, make sure they are 3 feet from the walls and furniture and that there are no items that can catch fire around them.</p> <p>During the holidays, make sure your live Christmas tree always has water. Turn off the lights on the tree and other light-up holiday decorations when you leave the house.</p>

Activity 2: Fire Safety at Home



Teaching Tip: Additional fire and family communication plan information and activities are available in the STEP Activity Book and Instructor Guide in the main curriculum. The Instructor Guide includes a wildfire case study on page 17 and a lesson on creating a family communication plan starting on page 32. In the Activity Book, check out the fire drill and safety walk exercises on page 30 and family emergency communication plan skit on page 28.

Instructor Script: *We have fire drills at school so everyone knows how to get out of the building quickly and safely. It's also important to do the same thing at home.*

Think about what we've learned today and about where you live to answer the questions on the worksheet/PDF.

On the second page, you will make a map of your home when you go home tonight. First, draw an outline of your house or apartment. Then make rectangles or squares to show each room. Label where the doors to the outside are, as well as the doors and windows in each room. Knowing where these are will help in case of an emergency when you need to act quickly. Then add circles where your home has smoke alarms.

If your home has more than one floor, make maps for each floor. If you live in an apartment or condo building and aren't on the first floor, also add where the stairs or fire escapes are. Then add a meeting place that is a safe distance from your home, such as a tree, where you can reunite with your family so you know everyone is safe. Make sure firefighters or emergency personnel can see you there, too.

Make sure to talk to your parents about your map and then practice how you will leave your home if there is a fire in the kitchen or one of the bedrooms. To make sure everyone stays safe, don't share this drawing with anyone outside your family or caregivers. Remember to have a home fire drill at least twice a year.

Action: Hand out print copies of the activity or have students complete the PDF on their devices. The Draw Your Fire Escape Plan activity can be completed at home either by printing the activity out, drawing on a separate piece of paper, or utilizing computer drawing software.

STEP SUPPLEMENTAL HAZARD LESSON

FIRES



Fire Safety at Home

Knowing how to stay safe in a fire is important, no matter if you live in a house or a tall apartment building. Think about where you live and what you've learned in this lesson. Then answer the following questions.

1. How many smoke alarms do you have in your home?

2. Think about your house or building. How many doors to the outside are there? _____ Where are they located? _____

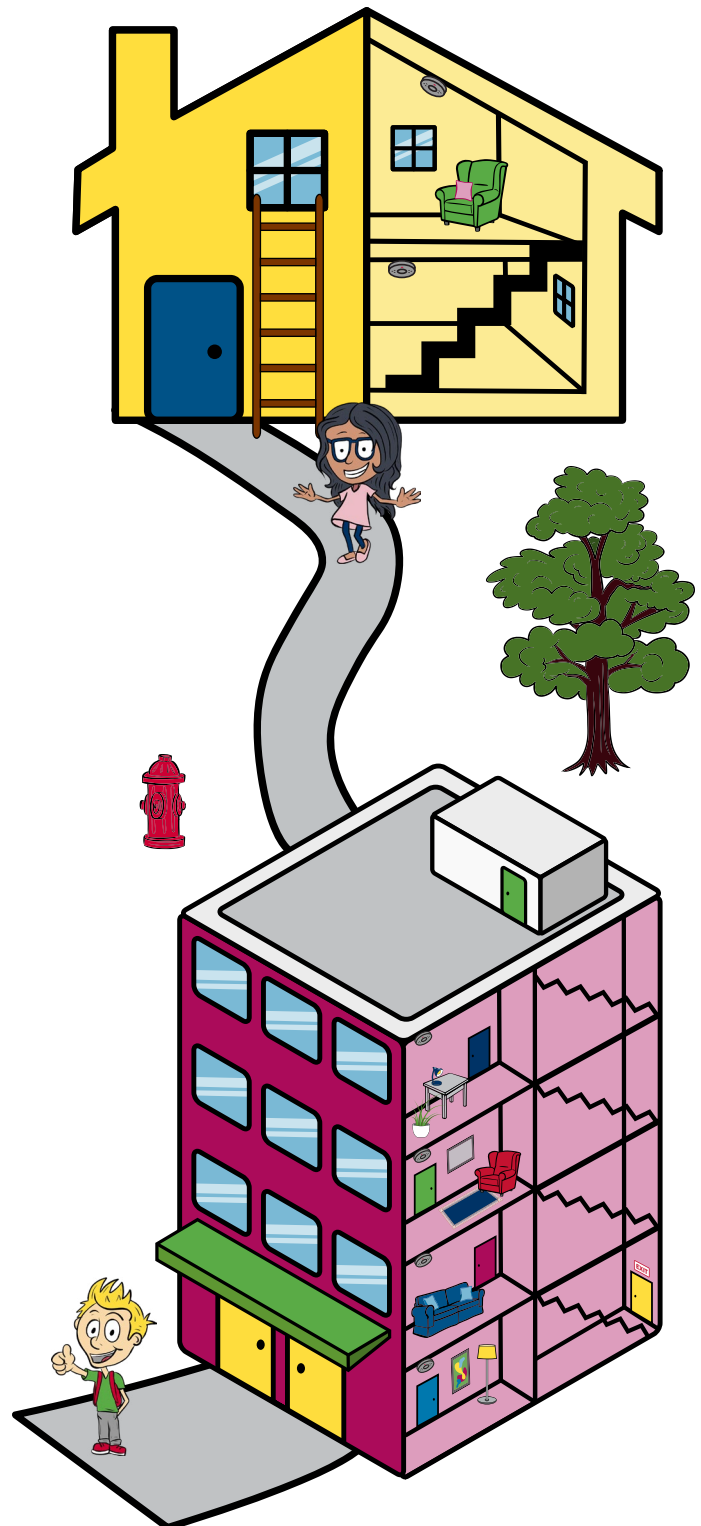
3. If you live in an apartment building with multiple floors, should you take the elevator or stairs down to get out during a fire? _____ Would it be safe to go up to the roof? _____

4. If you live in a house with two floors and can't get downstairs safely during a fire, what should you have to help you escape? _____

5. If a door handle feels hot, what does that mean?

What should you do? _____

6. Where would be a good place to meet your family members outside your home? _____



Remember to discuss with your family a place to meet that is a safe distance from your home if you get separated as you make your fire safety plan. Make sure firefighters or emergency personnel can see you there, too.



Use this page to draw an outline of your house or apartment. Then make rectangles or squares to show each room. Label where the doors to the outside are, as well as the doors and windows in each room. Knowing where these are will help in case of an emergency when you need to act quickly. Then add circles where your home has smoke alarms.

If your home has more than one floor, make maps for each floor. If you live in an apartment or condo building and aren't on the first floor, also add where the stairs or fire escapes are. Then add a meeting place outside that is a safe distance from your home, such as a tree, where you can reunite with your family.

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STEP SUPPLEMENTAL HAZARD LESSON

FIRES



Fire Safety at Home Answer Key

Knowing how to stay safe in a fire is important, no matter if you live in a house or a tall apartment building. Think about where you live and what you've learned in this lesson. Then answer the following questions.

1. How many smoke alarms do you have in your home?

[Different for each student]

2. Think about your house or building. How many doors to the outside are there?

[Different for each student]

Where are they located? **[Different for each student]**

3. If you live in an apartment building with multiple floors, should you take the elevator or stairs down to get out during a fire? **Stairs** Would it be safe to go up to the roof? **No, it's not safe to go to the roof.**

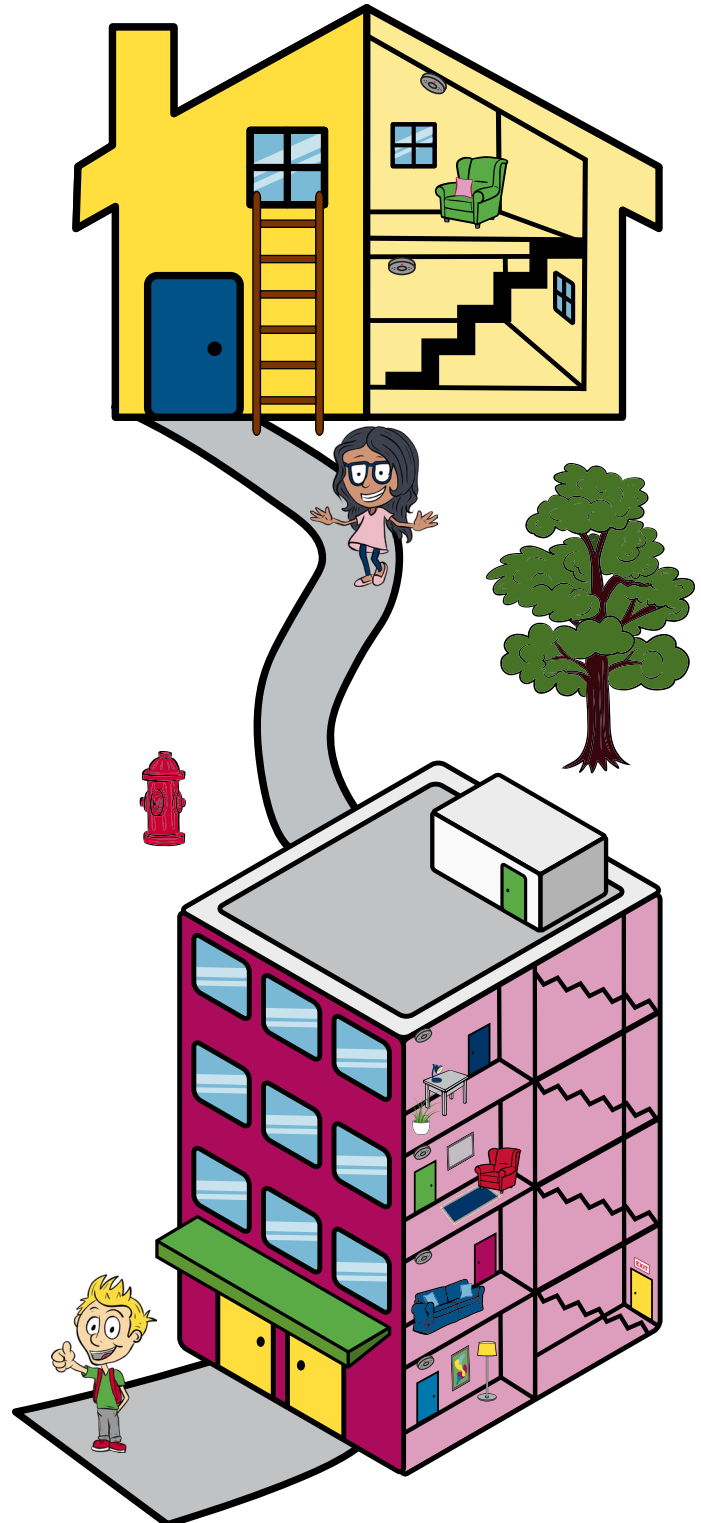
4. If you live in a house with two floors and can't get downstairs safely during a fire, what should you have to help you escape? **A fire escape ladder**

5. If a door handle feels hot, what does that mean?

There is fire in the room on the other side of the door.

What should you do? **Don't open the door. Then, leave through another door or window if possible. If it's not possible to get out another way, stuff towels or other material in the crack under the door to prevent smoke from seeping into the room.**

6. Where would be a good place to meet your family members outside your home? **Plan ahead to meet at a nearby spot, such as a big tree in the yard or a neighbor's house.**



Remember to discuss with your family a place to meet that is a safe distance from your home if you get separated as you make your fire safety plan. Make sure firefighters or emergency personnel can see you there, too.