

The Great Escape!

Partners in Education



Lesson plan for Grades 6-8

More than half of fatal fires in homes occur when families are asleep. Having working smoke detectors on each level of your home and in sleeping areas increases your chances of survival by 50%. Planning and practicing a home escape plan will give family members the confidence to react properly in the case of a fire in their home.



Goal

Students will plan and regularly practice, with their families, an escape from their home.

Objectives

1. Students will understand the need for having a home escape plan.
2. Students will recognize and understand the importance of the components of a proper escape plan.
3. Students will demonstrate problem-solving when various escape routes are blocked.
4. Students will diagram a floor plan of their home and indicate two ways out of each room.
5. Students will learn how to "shelter" in a room if escape is impossible.

Materials

1. "The Great Escape" segment on WLVT digital learning channel and/or "The Great Escape" video.
2. "The Great Escape" student worksheet and/or interactive escape plan found on the Burn Prevention Foundation website at www.burnprevention.org (click on "Burn Institute Build Your Family Fire Escape Plan")
3. Chalkboard, overhead projector or flip chart (optional)

Procedure

Remind students that they regularly practice fire drills at school to be prepared in case of a fire. But, fires rarely occur in schools. Most fatal fires occur in homes, which are designed very differently from schools. Ask students how many of them have actually planned and practiced an escape from their homes. (Note the numbers, if any, to report later). Tell them that today they will learn how to make an escape plan from their homes in case of fire.

Instruct students to take out a piece of paper and a pen or pencil and number the paper from 1–10. Ask the following questions and have students write their answers on their papers, but do not discuss the answers at this time.

1. What time of day do most fatal fires occur? (NIGHT)
2. Will the smell of smoke always awaken you? (NO)
3. Having working smoke detectors in your home improves your chances of surviving a fire by what percentage? (50%)
4. Where in the home should smoke detectors be placed? (EVERY LEVEL and IN BEDROOMS)
5. Why should your family have an outdoor meeting place as part of their escape plan? (TO COUNT HEADS)
6. Should you try to save property and pets before exiting a burning building? (NO)
7. Why should you stay low when moving through smoke? (WARM AIR CURRENTS CARRY THE TOXIC SMOKE TO THE CEILING FIRST.)
8. From where should you call 911 to report a fire in your home? (OUTSIDE—FROM A CELL PHONE OR FROM A NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE)
9. Name three things you should do if you need to "shelter" in a room if your escape route is blocked. (BLANKETS, ETC. TO BLOCK CRACKS AROUND DOORS; STAY LOW; SIGNAL FROM A WINDOW; CALL 911 FROM A CELL PHONE TO REPORT YOUR LOCATION)
10. Why is it a good idea to sleep with your bedroom door closed? (GIVES YOU MORE TIME TO REACT IN CASE OF A FIRE; LESS CHANCE FOR SMOKE TO FILL THE ROOM)

Now, view the video or PBS segment, "The Great Escape" (check www.wlvt.org for airing times). Tell students to watch carefully to see if their answers were correct and to find out how one family planned and practiced their home escape.

After watching the video or PBS segment, review the questions and discuss each answer. Distribute the student worksheet. You may want to use the chalkboard, overhead projector or a flip chart to demonstrate how to draw a floor plan and diagram an escape plan. Then assign students the task of drawing a floor plan of their home, showing two possible escape routes from each room. This can be done in class or for homework. But, in each case, students should discuss their plan with their family; practice and time their home escape; and return their plan to you. Once you have checked the plan, return it to the student and instruct him/her to keep the plan at home in a location where it can be referred to quickly and practiced twice a year.

Students can also have the option of logging onto the Burn Prevention Foundation's website to complete an interactive home escape plan which can be printed, saved, and turned in to you for credit.

The Burn Prevention Foundation is committed to providing our education partners with quality programs and materials. It is important to us, and to the sponsors of our programs, that we know that students are gaining knowledge and positive behaviors as a result of the lessons they are receiving. The Burn Prevention Foundation would very much appreciate it if you would log onto our website, www.burnprevention.org, after you have completed your lesson and received the students' escape plans, to complete a short evaluation and report form. Thank you for partnering with us to keep your students and their families safe!