Preparing for bushfires

Lesson: Getting to know firefighters

Overview

**Curriculum levels:** 1 and 2

**Time:** 50 minutes (approximately)

**Links to the Victorian Curriculum F–10:**

English, Level 2

Reading and Viewing

Use comprehension strategies to build literal and inferred meaning and begin to analyse texts by drawing on growing knowledge of context, language and visual features and print and multimodal text structures [(VCELY222)](https://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Curriculum/ContentDescription/VCELY222)

Speaking and Listening

Understand the use of vocabulary about familiar and new topics and experiment with and begin to make conscious choices of vocabulary to suit audience and purpose [(VCELA237)](https://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Curriculum/ContentDescription/VCELA237)

Health and Physical Education, Levels 1–2

Personal, Social and Community Health

Recognise situations and opportunities to promote their own health, safety and wellbeing [(VCHPEP074)](https://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Curriculum/ContentDescription/VCHPEP074)

**Learning intention:**

Students come to know more about the role and importance of the local fire service and the role of firefighters during bushfires.

**Suggested resources:**

* Whiteboard, IWB or poster paper and appropriate markers
* Materials as selected for recording student responses, e.g., workbooks and markers, tablets, recording devices.
* Student workbooks or paper
* Pens, pencils or markers
* Online resources such as the images and linked resources listed in the [Resources](http://www.bushfireeducation.vic.edu.au/resources-gallery/resources-gallery-landing-page.html) section of the Bushfire Education website’

Activities

Starting

Discussion focus:

* Encourage students to share any experiences they have had related to firefighters.

Reinforce the following key ideas:

* Firefighters are helpers in the community.
* Firefighters have a special job of making sure that people are safe from fires.
* Use relevant photographs (see the images listed on the [Resources](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/foundation-10/crosscurriculumresources/bushfireeductation/Pages/Resources.aspx) webpage of the VCAA Bushfire Education webpages) to generate discussion about the different aspects of what firefighters do. Select images related to:
* fire trucks heading to fight a fire
* CFA leader briefing firefighters
* CFA firefighter
* firefighters from different services working together
* cleaning out leaves from a roof gutter
* building a fire break
* community meeting
* CFA community event
* CFA country fire station
* fire truck
* firefighter with community members
* firefighter/s with animals
* firefighter/s with hose
* regeneration
* bulldozer in forest
* family clearing scrub.

Exploring

Focused discussion on the CFA

Use the photos and illustration resources from the previous session, including the firefighter’s uniform, to stimulate students’ thinking.

Ask students:

* What do you know about the fire services?
* Can you think of different ways in which the fire services help the community, including educating the community about fire safety and preparing to be safe during a bushfire?
* What do firefighters need in order to be prepared to keep us safe in a bushfire?
* Why do firefighters need these items?

To help students think about the purposes of the equipment and uniform, remind them of their earlier discussions about:

* the Fire Triangle
* the dangers of fire
* radiant heat (CFA fact sheet – [Radiant heat](https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/am-i-at-risk/radiant-heat)).

Key ideas:

* Most members of the CFA are volunteers. Their training and work as firefighters is a contribution to the community that is separate from other jobs they might have.

For more information, see the ‘[What CFA Does’](https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/about-us/what-we-do) fact sheet

Optional introduction to the next Bushfire Education theme

In order to provide an introduction to the next theme, ‘Responding to bushfires’, and calling the emergency number Triple Zero (000), ask students:

* How do we get firefighters to help us in an emergency?

Reinforce the importance of getting an adult to help, and that Triple Zero is only used in an actual emergency.

Meet the firefighters

Engage students in education programs provided by local firefighting agencies. Schools in CFA areas may participate in the [CFA’s Fire Safe Kids program](https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/schools/primary-schools/fire-safe-kids), which features firefighter-led presentations to teach students about fire awareness and safety. The Fire Safe Kids resource material includes teacher notes for pre-visit and post-visit sessions, as well as printable activity sheets.

Schools in metropolitan areas may participate in the [Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) fire education programs](https://www.frv.vic.gov.au/frv-education-programs) for all primary levels.