OBJECTIVE:
Students will learn what must happen in order for a fire to burn.

Students will learn about the classes of fire and how they relate to fire extinguishers.

Students will learn the steps in using a fire extinguisher.

Students will learn that installing and maintaining a smoke detector in your home greatly increases your chances of survival in a fire emergency.

Go over the statistics slowly. Many 8th graders couldn’t care less about safety. These figures are from the United States Fire Administration. You may have someone in class that has lost a home due to fire (don’t ask!).

The picture that comes up at the end is very typical on a fire scene. Ask the class to look at the picture and name at least two hazards to human life. Fire (or heat) obviously, smoke, and darkness (caused by the smoke).

Ask the lead-in question. Be prepared for clueless or smart aleck answers. Tell the class that fire is simply a chemical reaction. That is: oxygen and fuel combining in the presence of heat.

The fire triangle should illustrate this well. Ask the class the last question. Give them time to come up with a few answers. (The answer is: take away any one of the fire triangle’s sides and the fire goes out.)

This slides introduces how to extinguish a fire.

Remember, if you remove any side of the fire triangle (oxygen, heat, or fuel) the fire goes out.
These three slides (above and left) illustrate the common methods firefighters use to extinguish fires.

Please stress to the students that what we call smoke in a house fire contains a number of deadly gases. When natural fibers (wood, cotton, etc.) burn, the smoke can be harmful. When man-made objects (plastics, etc.) burn, it can be deadly!

The breathing apparatus that firefighters wear is absolutely essential to staying alive. If firefighters wear this much protective equipment to fight a fire, a homeowner returning to a burning house to save a person, pet, or property has no chance of surviving.

Point out in the picture that the smoke is about halfway up the walls. That is why we say stay low and crawl out of a burning building.
This is not very apparent to most people. Being inside a structure on fire is very dark business. This is why escape plans must be practiced and is why firefighters train in darkness.

Point out in the picture that the sun is shining onto the porch, but the doorway and interior room are very dark. That means low flames, high heat, and lots of smoke.

Ask the class how many have at least one smoke detector in their home. Then ask how many have a smoke detector on every floor (level) of their home.

This is the single best way to survive a house fire!

Point out that smoke detectors are cheap and are available everywhere. They last about ten years. Get them! Use them!

The diagram shows where smoke detectors should be placed in a home. Having one in every bedroom may be a bit excessive, but there should be one located near the bedrooms.

Go over when to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Stress that we need to check to see if they are working by actually seeing if they will detect smoke, not just punching the test button.
Read this slide slowly and carefully to the class. If it is underlined, stress it!

ESCAPE!!!
Every family should have an escape plan so that each family member knows how they should get out of the house and where to meet once you are outside.

Escape plan should be practiced! The reason I haven't said 'Don't Panic' is that, if you find yourself in a burning house, you will panic. Having practiced your escape plan will allow you a better chance of getting out alive.

Go over each of these points with the class. It is important. Stress that waiting until your house is on fire to practice your escape plan is too late. You may not make it out.

Point out that having every family member actually get down and crawl in practicing the escape plan may look silly, but it will save your life. Firefighters train by crawling. Always!

Just a funny slide to lighten the mood.

Just a little wake up call. This is a true story. This was published by the US Fire Administration. Let this sink in on the class.
This slide introduces the fire extinguisher.

Ask the class how many of them have a fire extinguisher in their homes. Stress that in order to put out a fire, an extinguisher must be ready and close at hand. They are for small fires before they get out of control.

Point that extinguishers are simple and easy to operate. The picture shows a little old lady using an extinguisher.

Go over the types of fires and stress that an ABC-type extinguisher is the best to have at home. For cars, a BC-type extinguisher is best and should be in every vehicle.

Fire extinguishers are inexpensive and available everywhere. After enough time, extinguishers lose their ‘charge’ and should be replaced. There is a dial gauge on each extinguisher to tell you when it is no longer good. Check them whenever you change your smoke detector batteries.

Go over the steps to use a fire extinguisher. (Explain to the class what an acronym is)

Stress that you shoot the extinguisher at the base of the fire. That is where the chemical reaction is taking place. Shooting at the flames does little or no good.
FIRE SAFETY

Please stress the times that most house fires occur. This is very important. Go over the points in the conclusion and then tell them about the December contest.

Keep in mind that most house fires that involve fatalities occur between the hours of Midnight and 6:00 a.m.

This is when humans are the least alert.

In conclusion, if we understand:
- the properties of fire
- how to prevent fires
- what to do if a fire starts
- how to put out a fire...

life will be a bit safer for ourselves and our families.

December Contes

Happy Holidays!

Get in the Christmas spirit by participating in the 4-H Christmas Crafts Contest. Craft divisions are as follows:

1. Recycled Christmas Craft:
   Any Christmas decoration made from recycled items.

2. Door or Wall Decoration
   Examples: Wreath, Stockings, Bells

3. Table Decoration
   Examples: Snowman, Holly Ring, Candle

4. Tree Decoration or Ornament
   Examples: Clothes Pin Reindeer, Tin Punch Ornament

5. Other:
   Examples: Holiday Bags, Stenciled Paper, Christmas T-Shirt or Sweat Shirt, Jewelry, Edible Decorations

You may bring one craft in each division, for a total of 5 crafts. (All crafts must be constructed by the 4-H member who enters them.)

Please label your entries. Any craft not labeled will be placed in a category at the discretion of the leader or agent.

Go over the rules to the Christmas Craft contest.