



Holiday Fire Safety Lesson Plans

Behavioral Objectives

ACTION

1. The students will practice behaviors during holidays and special occasions.

ATTITUDE

1. The student wishes to protect self, family, and friends during holidays and special events.

KNOWLEDGE

1. The student will explain why holidays are especially important times to be concerned about fire safety.
2. The student can identify common holiday fire hazards and recommend preventive measures.

Content Summary

WHY: To avoid dangers of carelessness during a time of happiness and celebration, when people are relaxed and not as vigilant as usual.

HOW: Children of all ages can:

Encourage the use of flame-resistant decorations for all parties, celebrations and observances. Make sure that lights, decorations, and toys that use electricity have a UL label.

There are still people around us who smoke; remember, "Smokers Need Watchers." After parties, check upholstered furniture, wastebaskets and ashtrays for smoldering cigarettes or cigars.

Help parents set up a holiday greens away from doorways and heat. Use only fire-retardant decorations for holidays and never burn gift paper in the fireplace.

Help adults to remember that lighted candles should never be left unattended; "Blow It Out, Before You Go Out." Candles, matches and lighters should be kept out of the reach of children and that children should never be left alone with a lighted candle or when there is a fire in a fire place.

Encourage the safe use and maintenance of heating devices.

Teaching/Learning Activities

DISCUSSION: Discuss with you class the fire hazards found during the winter holidays and procedures to prevent fires.

DRAMA: Have students put on a skit showing how the winter holidays can be ruined by fire caused by carelessness.

BULLETIN BOARD: During the period leading up to the winter holiday break have students assist you in creating and updating a bulletin board of potential fire hazards and actions necessary to prevent fires from these hazards/.

CHECKLIST: Have students, individually, in teams or as a class exercise, develop a holiday safety checklist for review with their families.

NEWSPAPER/WEB ARTICLES: Have students bring newspaper or web articles and photographs concerning holiday related fires.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Invite Hillsboro firefighters to your class to discuss holiday safety with students.

Lesson Plan – Fire Safety Calendar as a Winter Holiday Gift

MATERIALS

- Colored paper
- Crayons, colored pens/pencils or pastels

LESSON STEPS

- List each month of the year on a bulletin board, easel chart or overhead.
- Indicate holiday(s) or if there is no holiday indicate a special event for each month such as a famous person's birthday or students' birthdays, or a general message such as "camping season"
 1. January: New Year's Day
 2. February: Valentine's Day
 3. March: St. Patrick's Day
 4. April: Possible Easter or Passover
 5. May: Memorial Day
 6. June: Flag Day
 7. July: Independence Day
 8. August: Camping or Cookout Season
 9. September: Labor Day
 10. October: Fire Prevention Month and Halloween
 11. November: Veterans Day & Thanksgiving
 12. December: Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza
- Students will create a 12-month calendar including a fire safety picture for each month. The drawing should represent a fire safety behavior for each holiday.
- Students may include specific fire safety messages each month such as:
 1. Test our smoke alarm.
 2. Keep candles, matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
 3. Stop, drop and roll if your clothes catch fire.
 4. Make and practice our home escape plan.
 5. Keep a 3 foot safety circle around fireplaces, woodstove and BBQs.
- Calendar will be brought home as a holiday gift for the family.

Sample Integrative Activities

ART

Have students draw pictograms or symbols showing correct behaviors for holidays.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Have students interview a firefighter or fire prevention inspector.

Have students tell or write stories or articles on fire prevention during holidays.

Have students perform fire prevention skits.

Have students look on the internet for fire prevention articles.

MATH

Create age-appropriate story problems for students to solve. For example for 4-5th grade, "*When properly placed in water, a Christmas tree will keep its needles at least 4 times as long as when put in a stand without water. How long will a tree stay fresh in water if it will last 6 days without water?*"

Create secret code drill problems.

SCIENCE

Have students research and report (or lead class experiment) on how a fire can be put out. (Remove one part of the fire triangle – heat, oxygen or fuel.) This will help emphasize Stop, Drop & Roll – eliminate oxygen or extinguishing candles – reduce heat, etc.)
