

Lesson Plan-Home Hazards

Goals:

- Students will be able to identify fire hazards in the home
- Students will learn the importance of correcting home fire safety hazards

Materials:

Pens, paper (get from teacher)
Home Fire Safety Checklists

Procedure:

- Introduce yourself and your crew
- Tell students they must raise their hand to ask a question-no stories
- Questions will be taken at the end of the presentation
- Ask students if they know what fire hazards are and if they can name things in the home that might be considered a fire hazard:
 - frayed cords on electrical appliances
 - electrical cords run underneath carpets or furniture
 - matches and lighters placed where kids can reach them
 - fireplaces without mesh/glass screens
 - paper, fabric, trash or other combustible materials left too close to heat sources such as furnaces, hot water heaters, fireplaces, wood stoves, etc.
 - material draped over lamps
 - curtains located too close to the bulbs in torch-style halogen lamps
 - pot holders or kitchen towels stored too close to stoves
 - electrical equipment left on with no one is in the room
 - smoking in bed
- Explain that these are dangerous things that could be in anyone's home
- Ask students if they know why it is important to identify and correct fire hazards in the home
 - It's important to prevent a fire in the home and to prevent families from being hurt
 - Some hazards may not seem dangerous, such as overloaded extension cords, but they could cause a fire when they least expect it. Fire hazards are especially dangerous at night, when no one is awake to notice that a fire has started
- Split the students up into four groups.
 - Give each group a room in the house: garage, kitchen, living room and bedroom
 - Have each group list the hazards found in these rooms and present to the class

Lesson Plan-Home Hazards

Garage:

- Make sure combustibles are not stored near heat sources, including sunlight! Oily rags can ignite by themselves. Store them in airtight metal containers
- Store flammable liquids up high and closed tightly in a ventilated area
- Lint trap in dryers. Make sure the lint trap and duct are cleaned often
- Fuses and circuit breakers are designed to break an electrical circuit that is in danger of overloading.

Kitchen:

- The kitchen is the number one site for home fires.
- Be sure the oven and stove are clean-food and grease ignite easily
- Never leave cooking unattended and keep a safe distance between your stove and objects that may catch on fire
- Avoid loose, flowing clothing which could accidentally make contact with a flame or hot surface
- Turn pot handles in when cooking and cool a burn with cool water
- Check all appliances for frayed cords and overheating

Living room:

- If you have a fireplace, make sure you use a screen to keep sparks from flying into the room
- Never leave a fire unattended and use only firewood to start fires
- Clean chimneys every year to avoid creosote buildup, which lead to fires
- If you use a portable heater, be careful not to put it where it might get tipped over. Also, make sure objects are placed at a safe distance (at least 36 inches) away from the heating unit
- Nearly half of all living room fires are caused by careless smoking.
- Matches and lighters can be hazards too, especially when used by children as toys
- Examine cords and plugs for cracking or fraying. Extension cords can be damaged if placed where they may be pinched, as heat can build up in the cord and start a fire
- Don't overload outlets
- TVs, radios and VCRs need open air space at the top, sides and back as they build up heat. Keep all of these appliances away from water and clutter

Lesson Plan-Home Hazards

Bedroom:

- NEVER let anyone smoke in bed!!!
- Examine electrical blankets, hair dryers, steam irons and other appliances that give off heat. Look for signs of overheating or cracking, fraying or worn cords
- Keep all appliances away from water and unplug them when not in use
- Heating equipment can be hazardous too-there should be at least three feet between a heater and any combustible materials, such as bed sheets, curtains or paper
- Know two ways out in case of a fire. If the door is hot, go to the window to escape. If your room is upstairs, stand at the window and wave so the firefighters can see you. If the door is cool and you can go out-crawl low under the smoke
- If your room is upstairs, make sure you have an escape ladder to climb out of the window if you need to use it

Conclusion:

- Hand out the Home Fire Safety Checklist, ask the children to bring it home and complete it with their family.
- Ask the kids if they have any questions