

Arson
WORKBOOK

Name

Class

THROUGH THEIR EYES

Accidental fires

While fires can be caused accidentally, an awareness of common causes of accidental fires can reduce the number of fires and their damaging consequences.

The most common causes of accidental fires are:

Careless smoking, examples such as: smoking in bedrooms; at times when the smoker is drowsy or unwell or confused and may forget to extinguish the cigarettes properly; using shallow ashtrays where cigarettes butts might be knocked over on furniture or floors, they can smoulder for hours.

Cooking equipment, examples such as: when a pan overheats and splashes grease, it can take seconds to cause a fire; using oil at high temperatures; leaving combustibles, such as cloths or tea towels, close to the heat; leaving cooking unattended.

Heaters, examples such as leaving portable heaters near curtains or furnishings; drying clothes on heaters.

Electrical equipment, examples such as: overloading plugs into a socket; wires which are worn or damaged. In older houses the wiring can become brittle and cause an electrical fire.

Candles, examples such as: candles left near curtains or furniture; within reach of children or pets; or left in rooms unattended.

Flammable liquids, examples such as: paint; fuel; solvents; cleaning agents; all give off vapours, which can travel some distance and can ignite at high temperature or with a spark.

Christmas decorations, examples such as: trees near heat sources dry out and burn more easily; frayed wires on Christmas lights; candles near decorations.

Barbecues, examples such as: poorly cleaned/maintained gas barbecues; barbecues near tree branches, tablecloths; barbecues in garages or on dried countryside.

Batteries, examples such as: batteries can start fires if left in pockets with keys/metal objects which cause a short circuit; batteries can overheat in devices left plugged in and unattended, and cause fires if they are on combustible surfaces, a sofa or a bed.

Tumble dryers, examples such as: a build up of fluff blocking the filter can cause the dryer to over-heat and start a fire.

Aerosol cans, examples such as: if these are left in the sun on window sills or on the ground, they have the potential to explode and start a fire.

Children playing with fire, examples such as: playing with matches or a lighter; when they are upset or angry and seek to be destructive.

Tick the common causes you knew before this session.

Write down one thing you will do differently now.

THROUGH THEIR EYES

Fires which are caused deliberately.

Arson is the illegal burning of a building or other property

Fire setting is a complex pattern of behavior, in which a child or adolescent starts fires, either accidentally or intentionally. Young people who smoke cigarettes or vape are more likely to be carrying matches, lighters, or sources of ignition of a fire. The fact that they are not allowed to smoke cigarettes and/or vape, can contribute to them doing so in more concealed places away from the adult view. This may then be a fire risk.

Children and young people start to play with fire for various reasons, ranging from natural curiosity in toddlers, to older children using fire setting to express feelings of anger or emotional distress. Young people may be less aware of the common causes of fire, and of the extent and speed with which fire spreads. This may be a factor in them being less mindful of the risk of fire.

The most common reason given, is fire play and the majority of people cautioned or found guilty of committing arson are male and aged under 18 years. When a fire is set deliberately, this is a crime, which can endanger life and buildings.

The shopkeeper is right to refuse to sell cigarettes to Tyler.

Why is there a law limiting the sale of cigarettes and vapes?

- Cigarette smoking is the main cause of preventable deaths, approximately 1 in 5 deaths.
- People who smoke are more likely to develop heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer. It increases risk likelihood by: heart disease 2-4 times; stroke 2-4 times; lung cancer 25 times.
- Smoking affects a person's overall health: it can affect a baby's health before, and after birth; affect teeth and gums leading to tooth loss; can cause diabetes type 2 and make it harder to control; increase the risk of cataracts, clouding the lens of the eye; causes general inflammation of the body and decreases immunity; and is a cause of rheumatoid arthritis.
- Most e-cigarettes, known as vapes, contain nicotine, which is highly addictive and hampers adolescent brain development. Each time a new memory or new skill is developed stronger connections (synapses) are built between brain cells. Young people build synapses faster than adults. Nicotine changes the way synapses are formed and can increase the risk of future addiction to drugs. Brains are developing up to age 25 years.
- They also contain other substances which are harmful for example, nickel.
- Young people, who use vapes, are more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future.
- Vapes can be used to deliver marijuana and other drugs, taking young people nearer to regular drug use.
- Young people may turn to cigarettes or vaping in times of stress or anxiety, and create a nicotine dependency. Stopping using nicotine leads to temporary symptoms of nicotine withdrawal such as irritability, restlessness, anxiety, depression, trouble sleeping/concentrating, and cravings for nicotine.

Make a word cloud which captures messages about fire risks and cigarettes/vapes.

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The things about fire that people don't always know.....

It spreads faster than you think

It disrupts everything. We have to evacuate the buildings.....stop traffic.... and fight the fire

It burns materials and buildings, the things that burn cause more problems,like molten plastic dripping.....aerosols and cannisters that explode....and smoke which cuts off your oxygen, and kills you, often before the flames reach you

It kills people and causes painful life changing injuries

The firemen are in danger too

If there is a fire, all you can do is.....

Listen and follow the instructions in fire drills

Know your fire exits and always keep them clear

Always be mindful of the risk of fire, it can start anywhere...in the shops as you have seen.... in your school... in the countryside....in your home

When there is a fire..... get out...stay out... and report it.

Have a discussion with in your group about Fire drills in school.

How often do you have one?

Can you name the school Fire Safety Officer?

Where is your assembly point?

What things can you do to contribute to fire prevention in school?

- Look at the Fire safety signs in school
- Know where the fire exits are in relation to the rooms on your timetable
- Never putting furniture, boxes, bags or coats, in front of exits
- Putting waste paper in the bin
- Take fire drills seriously and listen to staff
- Never bringing flammable liquids, matches/lighters, vapes into school
- Being prepared to report risky behaviour by others

Do you have another idea?

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What can be done to prevent/react to fire in the home

1. Working smoke alarms reduce the chances of dying in a fire by nearly 50 percent. They are a critical first step for staying safe.
 2. Consider installing a smoke alarm that has a 10-year battery.
 3. Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and always blow them out when you leave the room or before you go to sleep. Never use candles in bedrooms, unless supervised by an adult.
 4. Use common sense in the kitchen. Limit distractions when cooking and don't leave a hot oven or pans cooking unattended.
 5. Have a fire extinguisher in the kitchen in case of emergency, and make sure you know how it works.
 6. Know how to respond to the sound of a smoke alarm. It is always best to make sure that everyone know that when you hear it, get low (smoke rises) and get out.
 7. Practice feeling the door, doorknob and cracks around the door with the back of your hand, if there is a fire, this is the way to see if they are too hot.
 8. Have a family plan and practice with two ways out of your house in case of a fire. It is important to have an alternate exit in case one is blocked by fire.
 9. Choose a place to meet outside, that is a safe distance away from your home.
 10. If you cannot safely escape your home or apartment, keep smoke out of the room by covering vents and cracks around the door and call 999 as quickly as possible. Then know to signal for help at the window with a light-coloured cloth or a flashlight.
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After this session, have a discussion with your family about these tips with regards to fire.

What is 'the triangle of fire'

Research what to do in the following events:

- The oil in a chip pan/fryer is on fire
- Cigarette butts are smouldering in an ash tray
- The clothes of a person are on fire
- In the event of a fire and someone refuses to leave the building