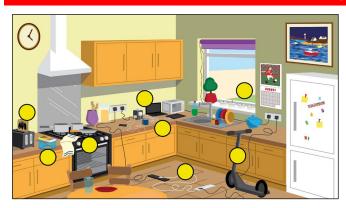
Guidance

RBFRS Annual Schools Programme 2024 - 2025



Activity Answers



Fire Hazards within the Home: Hazard Room

Candles must be kept on a flat surface and secured in a proper holder. Fire from a candle can easily spread to other flammable materials if left unattended.

Mobile phones, laptops and other electrical devices should not be charged overnight and should be switched off when not in use. The battery and/or charger could potentially overheat and catch fire.

E-scooters/e-bikes batteries can become damaged easily, overheat and catch fire without warning. Check the battery before charging and keep away from any exits out of your home.

Overloading sockets and extension leads/devices may cause the socket to overheat and catch fire - do not exceed the number of amps allowed.

Daisy chaining (connecting together) extension leads can lead to overloading and an increased risk of overheating and catching fire. This also applies to extension leads left coiled whilst in use.

Cooking in the kitchen should be supervised at all times and all flammable items, such as tea towels, kept away from any naked flame and/or hot surface to reduce the risk of a fire starting and spreading.

Matches and lighters are tools, not toys, for adults to use and should be stored away properly.

Toasters can become a fire hazard if not kept clean and should always be kept away from flammable items.

Smoke Alarm Quiz

Q1 Can you tell me what a smoke alarm is designed to detect? *The smoke from the fire*.

Q2 Can you tell me why is it so important that we have smoke alarms fitted in our home? To tell us there is a fire in our home and give us plenty of time to escape the property.

Q3 Can you tell me the difference between a stand-alone smoke alarm, linked smoke alarms and integrated smoke alarms? Stand-alone smoke alarms work all by themselves and have a battery fitted. Linked smoke alarms work when one alarm detects smoke from a fire, all the smoke alarms in the house will activate. Integrated smoke alarms are powered by the main electrical supply to the house but will have a backup battery.

Q4 Can you tell me how many smoke alarms we should have in our home? At least one smoke alarm per floor of our home.

Q5 Can you tell me the best place for a smoke alarm to be positioned? *On the ceiling*.

Q6 Can you tell me how often we should test our smoke alarms? *Once a week*.

Q7 Can you tell me how we test our smoke alarms? *Press* the button on the smoke alarm.

Q8 There are specialist smoke alarms available for those with sight and/or hearing loss? *True*

Q9 Can you tell me what may cause a smoke alarm to activate other than a fire? *All of the answers listed.*

Q10 A smoke alarm will sometimes make a quieter, chirping noise, which is very different to the loud warning sound a smoke alarm will make to give us plenty of warning that we need to get ourselves to a place of safety. Can you tell me what may cause a smoke alarm to chirp? *All of* the answers listed.

Q11 Can you tell me how often we should replace standalone smoke alarms? *Every 10 years*.

Q12 Can you tell me how often should we replace the batteries in our smoke alarms? *Both answers listed*.

Escape Plans: Where Shall We Go?

Q1 George's nearest exit is the front door - as this is clear of fire and smoke, he should use this main exit out of the house to safety.

Q2 As Charlie can see smoke near the front of the house, he would need to use an alternative route outside, either through the utility room or via the kitchen and out the back door.

Q3 Gracie would need to make her way from the bedroom, down the stairs and out the front door, away from the kitchen, to her meeting point.

Escape Plans: What to do in an Emergency

Section 1: In the event of a fire...

Smoke alarms are our first line of **protection**, they will alert you to the fire and even wake you during the night if you are asleep in bed, giving you time to make your way outside the property.

If alerted to a fire, make your way to the **nearest** exit, quickly but safely, using your escape plan as a guide.

Once outside, call **999** and do not go back inside the property for anything.

Always attempt to use a **safe** exit out of the property, such as the front door - never climb out of a **window** unless it is absolutely necessary or on the ground floor - always remember to lower yourself down, closer to the ground.

If you have a **mobile** phone to hand, please take it with you to call the emergency services but please **leave** any other personal belongings behind.

If exiting a property where you would normally use a **lift**, please remember to use the **stairs** in the event of a fire.

Section 2: If woken at night...

Always check the door before exiting a room - use the back of your hand to feel if the door handle is **warm** or **hot** to touch.

If the door handle feels a normal **temperature**, open the door a fraction to check for fire and smoke before exiting the room.

If smoke is gathering, keep low below the smoke line, on your hands and knees if necessary, as 3 or 4 **breaths** of smoke can knock us **unconscious**.

Call to others in the property to alert them to the fire, **shout** as loud as you can, **FIRE**!

Make your way to the nearest exit, **quickly** but safely, using your **escape** plan as a guide.

Once **outside**, call 999 and do **not** go back inside the property for anything.

Section 3: If unable to escape the property safely, you can use a 'safe room' - this is what you should do...

Get everyone into one room and **close** the **door** behind you.

Put something **soft** along the bottom of the door to **stop** the smoke from entering the room.

Call 999 as soon as it is safe to do so.

Go to the window and open it to provide a source of **clean** air and to **alert** others to the fire.

Shout 'FIRE' as loud as you can, as well as '**HELP**' to alert people outside the property.

In circumstances such as these, one of our Fire **Control** Operators will remain on the line to assist you through the process.

A Firefighters Fire Kit

- erlfecivet irsspt = reflective strips
- 2. hroct = torch
- 3. eelthm = helmet
- 4. ntiuc = tunic
- 5. solveg = gloves
- 6. otsob = boots
- 7. egigsgln = leggings

Maths Code Breaker

 $A 5600 \div 10 = 560 B 29 x 8 = 232 C 1589 - 999 = 590$

D $\frac{1}{2}$ of 516 = 258 **E** 204 ÷ 4 = 51 **F** 731 x 5 = 3655

G 2051 - 761 = 1290 **H** 15 x 9 = 135 **I** 223 x 6 = 1338

 $J25 \times 12 = 300 \text{ K} 616 \div 8 = 77 \text{ L} 237 + 763 = 1000$

M 1712 - 313 = 1399 **N** 420 \div 3 = 140 **O** $\frac{1}{4}$ of 704 = 176

P $503 \times 3 = 1509$ **Q** 37 + 866 = 903 **R** 4377 - 389 = 3988

S 1862 + 862 = 2724 **T** $152 \times 7 = 1064$ **U** $4248 \div 2 = 2124$

V 34 of 384 = 288 W 79 x 2 = 158 X 5490 ÷ 6 = 915

 \mathbf{Y} 3712 - 90 = 3622 \mathbf{Z} 3126 + 875 = 4001

Answer - if your clothes catch on fire, you must stop, drop and roll

Fire Safety Wordsearch

Words - unplug, stop drop roll, flame, overheat, fire engine, ladder, escape plan, candle, firefighter, helmet, smoke alarm, exit, charger, fire safety, crawl, batteries, hose



Additional Fire Safety Information

Candles

Never leave lit candles unattended. Put burning candles out when you leave the room, and make sure they are out completely at night.

Place your candles carefully. Make sure they are on a stable surface, out of the reach of pets and children, and keep them away from flammable objects like curtains, furniture, bedding and books.

Avoid moving candles once they are lit and do not burn several candles close together as this might cause the flame to flare.

Burn candles in a well-ventilated room, out of drafts, vents or air currents. This will help prevent rapid or uneven burning, soot, and dripping.

Always put scented candles in a heat resistant holder. These candles are designed to liquefy when heated to maximise fragrance.

Fit smoke alarms and test them now and monthly. A working smoke alarm can buy you valuable time to get out, stay out and call 999.

Make sure that everyone in your home knows what to do if a fire should occur - practise your escape route.

Consider using LED or battery-operated candles.

Electrical Safety

Unplug electrical appliances and chargers when you are not using them and when you go out or go to bed.

Look out for signs of dangerous or loose wiring e.g. scorch marks, hot plugs and sockets, flickering lights, fuses that blow or circuit breakers that trip for no obvious reason.

Keep appliances clean and in good working order e.g. regularly remove lint from tumble dryer filters.

Avoid overloading - keep to one plug per socket.

Always use a charger supplied with the device or recommended by the manufacturer - using any charger other than the one intended for the battery can increase the risk of damage.

Avoid placing phones or other electric devices under pillows or blankets whilst charging.

Avoid overcharging your batteries.

Always check that you use the right fuse to prevent overheating.

Make sure an electrical appliance has a British or European safety mark.

Cooking and Kitchen Safety

Keep looking when cooking - avoid getting distracted.

Take care if you are wearing loose clothing.

Keep tea towels, cloths and other items away from the oven and hob area.

Never leave cooking unattended, if you do need to leave the kitchen whilst cooking, take pans off the heat or turn them down to avoid risk.

Do not cook if you have been drinking alcohol or taking medication.

Avoid leaving children in the kitchen alone when cooking on the hob. Keep matches and saucepan handles out of their reach to keep them safe.

Make sure saucepan handles do not stick to avoid getting knocked off the stove.

Double check the cooker is off when you have finished cooking.

Keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in good working order. A build up of fat and grease can ignite a fire.

Keep electrics (leads and appliances) away from water.

Check toasters are clean and placed away from curtains and kitchen rolls. Avoid repeated use under overhead cabinets.

Take care when cooking with hot oil - it sets alight easily. Make sure food is dry before putting it in hot oil so it does not splash. If the oil starts to smoke - it's too hot. Turn off the heat and leave it to cool. Use a thermostat-controlled electric deep fat fryer as they cannot overheat.

If a pan catches fire, avoid taking any risks. Turn off the heat, if safe to do so. Never throw water over it. Do not tackle the fire yourself - always get out, stay out and call 999.

Matches and Lighters

Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children. Only buy child resistant lighters and match boxes.

E-scooters / E-bikes (Lithium-ion Batteries)

A lithium-ion battery fire may lead to an unusually intense fire that can give off toxic gases and large amounts of smoke with very little prior warning.

Charging

If possible, avoid charging e-bikes and e-scooters indoors. Avoid storing or charging e-bikes and e-scooters in

communal areas as this can affect people's ability to escape.

Charge batteries whilst you are awake and alert and do not charge them if you are away from home.

Avoid charging near combustible or flammable materials.

Ensure your smoke alarms are working. If you charge or store your e-bike or e-scooter in a garage or kitchen, ensure you install the correct detection equipment. We recommend heat alarms rather than smoke detectors for these areas.

Always use the manufacturer approved charger for the product and carefully follow the instructions.

Unplug the charger when you have finished using it.

Check your battery regularly for any signs of damage.

Do not cover chargers or battery packs when charging as this could lead to overheating or a fire.

Do not overcharge your battery. Check the instructions for charge times.

If you need to dispose of a damaged or end of life battery, do not dispose of it in your household waste or normal recycling.

Storage

Avoid storing or charging e-bikes and e-scooters on escape routes or in communal areas of a multi occupied building. If there is a fire, it can affect people's ability to escape.

E-bikes, e-scooters and their batteries should be stored in a cool place, avoiding excessively hot or cold areas.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the storage and maintenance of lithium-ion batteries, particularly if they are not going to be used for extended periods of time. In the event of an e-bike, e-scooter or lithium-ion battery fire, do not attempt to put it out. Always get out, stay out and call 999.

Buying

Buy e-bikes, e-scooters and chargers and batteries from reputable retailers.

Many fires involve counterfeit electrical goods. Items which do not meet British or European standards pose a huge fire risk and while genuine chargers (or battery packs) may cost more, it's not worth putting your life at risk and potentially destroying your home by buying a fake charger to save a few pounds.

If buying an e-bike conversion kit, purchase from a reputable seller and check that it complies with British or European standards. Take particular care if buying from online auction or fulfilment platforms. Also be aware that if buying separate components, you should check that they are compatible.

Register your product with the manufacturer to validate any warranties - batteries are usually included in warranties. Registering makes it easier for manufacturers to contact you in the event of safety or recall information.

Check any products you have bought are not subject to a product recall. You can do this by checking the <u>Electrical Safety First</u> (product recalls and safety notices) website or the <u>government</u> (product recalls and alerts) website.

Damage and Disposal

Batteries can be damaged by dropping them or crashing e-bikes or e-scooters. Where the battery is damaged, it can overheat and catch fire without warning. Check your battery regularly for any signs of damage and if you suspect it is damaged it should be replaced and should not be used or charged.

If you need to dispose of a damaged or end of life battery, do not dispose of it in your household waste or normal recycling. These batteries, when punctured or crushed, can cause fires in bin lorries, recycling and waste centres. Your e-bike or e-scooter manufacturer may offer a recycling service. Alternatively, check with your local authority for suitable battery recycling arrangements in your area.

Additional Information

<u>Thames Valley Police - Advice on using E-scooters</u> <u>Electrical Safety First - Scott's Story (YouTube)</u>

Smoke Alarms

Working smoke alarms save lives.

Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test the alarms every week to make sure they are working.

The best places to fit them are at the bottom of the stairs, with further alarms on each stair landing. The ideal position is on the ceiling, as near as possible to the centre of the room, hallway or landing.

Take time to check on elderly relatives and neighbours, as they are at greater risk from fire, and help by testing their smoke alarms for them.

Once a week - test the batteries, once a year - change the batteries (unless it is a ten-year alarm), twice a year - gently vacuum to remove dust and every ten years - replace the entire smoke alarm.

Landlords and housing providers are required by law to fit smoke alarms in all rented accommodation.

Carbon monoxide alarms must be fitted in rented properties with fixed appliances and when new appliances are installed in any home.

Landlords and housing providers in social and private rented sectors should repair or replace smoke and carbon monoxide alarms once they are told they are faulty.

Escape Plans

It can be difficult to think clearly in an emergency. Making an escape plan in advance and practising it regularly can save lives.

- **1. Make a plan...** include everyone who lives in your house, thinking especially of children, older people and lodgers. Consider your regular visitors and their needs. Talk through your escape plan, including what to do and what not to do in a fire.
- **2. Choose an escape route...** the best escape route is your usual way in and out of your house. If possible, choose a second route in case the first one is blocked. Keep both routes clear of obstructions.
- **3.** Make sure everyone knows where the keys are kept... always keep door and window keys in the same place. Make sure everyone in your household knows where they are.
- 4. Make sure everyone knows what to do... take a few minutes to 'walk through' the plan with everyone in the household. Regularly remind everyone about what to do in the event of a fire. Ensure you know what to do in an emergency. Keep a copy of your address by the phone, so children or visitors can read it out to the emergency services. Put a reminder of your escape plan somewhere prominent, like the door of the fridge.
- **5. What to do if your escape is blocked...** if you are unable to escape, you will need to find a room to take refuge in. This is particularly important if you have difficulty moving around or going downstairs on your own. Try to find a room that has a window and a phone. Put bedding around the bottom of the door to block smoke.
- 6. How to escape from a high-level building... as with all buildings, you should plan and practise an escape route. Our advice to people who live in high-rise properties or purpose built flats or maisonettes, apart from having a smoke alarm and taking fire safety precautions, is to make sure you know your escape route and what to do if there is a fire inside your home or somewhere else in the building. If there is a fire inside your flat or maisonette - alert all the people in your flat and leave, closing your doors behind you. Follow your escape plan and if there is a lot of smoke, crawl along the floor where the air should be clearer. Always use the stairs rather than the lift and call 999 as soon as you are in a safe place. If there is a fire elsewhere in the building - the structure of your flat (walls, floors, doors) are designed to give you a minimum of 30 to 60 minutes protection from a fire. If there is a fire in your building, but not inside your own home, you are usually safer to stay in your flat unless the heat or smoke from the fire is affecting you. If you stay put you should still immediately call 999.

What to do in an Emergency

If there is a fire... shout 'FIRE' to alert everyone in your house. Get everyone together.

Do not delay... you cannot afford to waste any time. Do not investigate the fire or try to tackle it yourself, look for valuables (including jewellery, documents or photographs) or go looking for pets.

Shut doors... only open the doors you need to make your way out. Before you open doors, check them with the back of your hand. If it's warm, do not open it - the fire is likely to be on the other side.

Get everyone out... use your escape plan. Stay together if you can.

Crawl on the floor if there is smoke... remember, smoke is poisonous and can kill you. Keep low where the air is cleaner.

Call 999... once you have escaped, call 999 for help. Speak slowly and clearly. Give your full address, including the town. Say exactly what is on fire (e.g. two-storey house). Make it clear if anyone is trapped and what room they are in. The more information the Fire Service has, the quicker it can get to you and act when it gets there.

Do not go back in for anything... if there is someone still inside, wait for the Fire Service to arrive. Tell them about the person and they will be able to find them quicker than you. If you go back inside the building, it will put your life in great danger and slow down the firefighters efforts to rescue anyone else that is missing.

Find somewhere safe to wait near the building... when the Fire Service arrives, give them as much information as possible about the fire and the building.

If your escape route is blocked... call 999 and tell the operator that you are unable to get out. Get everyone into one room with a window and a phone and shut the door. Put something around the door (like bedding) to stop smoke getting in. Open the window and shout 'FIRE'.

