

Brownies - Fire Safety Badge

, Issue 1



Contents

Fire Safety Badge	1
Fire and Rescue Service	1
Upcoming Events	1
How Fire Starts	2
Smoke Alarms	2
Plan Your Escape	2
Can't Get out	3
Clothes on Fire	3
Get Out, Stay out, Call Out	3
Dialing 999	4
What To Do for Next Week	4

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Sweep chimneys for Christmas
- ◆ Smoke Alarm's Birthday
- ◆ Fire Safety Badge Awards

Brownies

Fire Safety Badge

My name is Jan and I am a Education Assistant in Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service. Next week we will be doing work together to achieve the Fire Safety badge for you all.

There are many things to learn about fire, how to prevent it and the safety precautions to prevent you, your family and friends from being hurt if you have a fire in your home.

Before we meet next week I would like you to think about fire and your safety in your home. The rest of this newsletter says what you need to do before next week and includes creating your own

Fire and Rescue Service

The Fire Brigade has changed in the last few years. We are now a Fire and Rescue Service and we don't just put out fires – we try to stop them starting in the first place. We still go to fires in houses, shops and factories, as well as rescuing people from crashed cars or lorries, helping when it floods, or stopping chemicals damaging the environment when they are spilt or involved in fire. But – we now spend a lot of time advising people how to prevent fires from happening – in their home, in their workplace or at their schools. We also try to stop people from crashing their cars and encourage water safety by telling them of the dangers and how they can increase their safety.

I bet you can't guess which of these things firefighters do!

- Give safety lectures to schools, businesses

In case of emergency call:

999

escape plan and looking for risks within your home.

The Brownie Badge Book, page 35, says what we need to cover to get you each your Fire Safety Badge. It looks like a lot of hard work, but is really quite easy and I hope that you find it fun. I have put some information in this newsletter that will help us next week, so please read it all.

Don't worry that all the information that you need is not in this newsletter, we will be doing more things next week.

- Deal with bomb threats
- Take regular fitness training
- Attend education lectures
- Provide emergency response following vehicle crashes
- Practice drill exercises
- Visit homes of firestarters
- Plan response to terrorist incidents

Ok, so some of these were pretty easy. But a firefighter has to be ready to do everything in the list. That's why no two days are the same, and that's one of the things that Fire-fighters love about their job.

Would you like to be a Fire-fighter?

How Fire Starts



OK, time for a little science. Fire is an amazing thing. We use it every day to cook with, keep us warm, burn our bonfires. But what is it exactly?

Fire is a chemical reaction between oxygen and fuel. A side effect of this process is heat. Oxygen, fuel and heat form the fire triangle. Without any one of these, it's impossible to have fire.

Oxygen is all around us in the air we breathe. Fuel can be solid (like wood or coal), liquid (petrol) or gas (butane or methane). To start the fire, the fuel has to be heated by something. A match, a lightning bolt, or a spark from a striking flint can start a fire, as long as they heat the fuel to a hot enough point – its ignition point.

Heat sustains a fire and helps it to continue, so as long as there's fuel and oxygen, the fire will stay lit. The chemical reactions produce a lot of new heat, which helps to keep the fire going. How hot the fire gets depends on how much oxygen there is available and how well the fuel burns.

When a fire reaches a high enough temperature, some of the fuel (if it is a solid) decomposes and releases gases, or smoke. Some fuels burn in one step, like petrol. The heat vaporizes the petrol, burning it in one go as a volatile gas.

Another effect of fire is that the heat produces light. That's why we can see a flame or the light from a light bulb.

Smoke Alarms

This is a smoke alarm.

Maybe you have one of these at home. If you don't have one, it's time to get Fire wise. Smoke alarms save thousands of lives every year.

Firebustin' fact: People without smoke alarms are twice as likely to die in a fire at home



A smoke alarm is a pretty cool gadget. It acts as an early warning device, detecting smoke when a fire starts. A sensor in the alarm picks up smoke particles released into the air, and then sounds an electric siren.

If you've ever heard one, you know smoke alarms are LOUD! They need to be, because most fires happen at night when people are asleep.

Plan Your Escape

Do you know what to do if there's a fire? Maybe it's not something you've talked about at home. But a few minutes planning could save you and your family. Having an escape plan is all about one thing: TIME.

In an emergency, a carefully prepared plan will give extra seconds that could mean the difference between becoming a statistic or a survivor.

When making an escape plan, you need to:

- Plan an escape route together
- Choose the easiest route
- Think of a safe place
- Make sure everyone knows
- Know your fire equipment

- Practice the plan

Make a plan with your family, so that everyone knows what to do if there's a fire.

Choose the easiest route to get out of the building. A back-up route is a good idea, in case the first route is blocked. Think of a safe place in case it's impossible to get out of the building. Go for a room with a window or telephone.

Make sure everyone knows the plan and how they can get out. Everyone needs to know where door and window keys are too. Many homes have fire fighting equipment like extinguishers or fire blankets. Know where these are kept so they can be found in a hurry.

Try out the plan and check that everyone knows where to meet after getting out - you may leave the building through different doors or windows.

"Firebustin' fact: People without smoke alarms are twice as likely to die in a fire at home"

Can't Get Out

If you can't get out, find a safe place to stay and wait for help:

- Stay together in one room
- Make sure everyone knows which room to go to beforehand
- Close the door and seal the bottom with bedclothes
- Open the window and shout for help
- Stay by the window



Clothes on Fire

If your clothes catch fire: stop, drop, and roll.

- Stop running – moving around fans the flames and makes them burn faster
- Drop to the ground – this makes it harder for the flames to spread
- Roll around – move from one side to the other to smother the

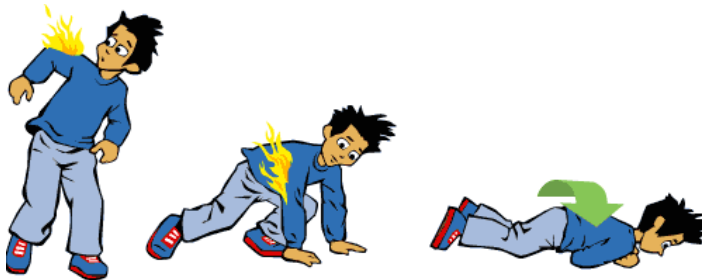
flames

Use a heavy material to help smother the flames. A blanket, a coat or, even better, a fire blanket will do the job. Smothering stops oxygen from feeding the flames and helps to put out the fire.

What now?

Burns can be very serious injuries, so you will need to get medical help quickly.

**STOP!
DROP!
ROLL!**



Firebustin' fact: Did you know that pets are usually the first to escape from house fires? Their keen sense of smell means they are way ahead of the game when there's smoke.

Get Out, Stay Out, Call Out

In an emergency, stick to the drill:

Get out - Stay out - Call 999

Get out

Use your senses. If you smell smoke, see fire or hear the smoke alarm, raise the alarm and get out fast using the planned route. If it's night time, shout as loud as you can, as others may be sleeping or drowsy from the smoke.

- Do not stop to take anything with you
- Do not stop for pets

If your escape route is blocked, try to get out through a room with a window. Only try to escape from a first floor window if there is no other option. Cushion your fall

with bedclothes or any other padded material. Lower yourself from the window, do not jump.

Stay out

Do not go back inside the building for anything. Even if it's tempting to return for a favourite possession, it's not worth the risk. Fire spreads fast and people can be overcome by smoke in seconds.

Once you're out safely, go to your meeting place to join your family.

Call out

Once you're safely outside, call for help immediately. Knowing how to call the Fire and Rescue Service is simple – just dial 999. It's free from any phone. When you dial 999, the operator will ask you what service you need.



FIRE! FIRE!



*Get Out, Stay Out,
Call Out*

Dialing 999

You should only dial 999 if there is an emergency. When you ring a person will answer the telephone but they won't be from the Fire Service, they will be from the telephone company. They will ask you which service you require - normally, Fire, Police or Ambulance although if you are near the sea you can ask for the coast guard as well.

When you ask for the service that you need help from you will be put through to that Service. In the case of a fire the next person that you speak to will be

from the Fire Service. They will ask for your address and ask what is on fire. They will then send fire engines to the address that you give but may ask you extra questions about the fire and whether there are people involved in the fire or trapped by it. They may also ask for extra information to help find the fire quickly and give you some advice about how to stay safe from the fire and what to do so that you do not get injured.

What To Do for Next Week

Here are some things for you to do for next week:

- Read all of this newsletter and note down any questions that you have about anything that is said in it;
- Complete the question paper as far as you can from the information in this newsletter - but don't worry, not all the answers are in here, we will cover them next week if you are not sure;
- Draw the layout of your house on the grid paper provided and show how you would escape if there was a fire in your kitchen, in your lounge or another bedroom. Write on the plan where you and your family would meet outside;
- Have a go at the word-search;
- Think of some questions about the Fire and Rescue Service that you would like me to answer.

Hereford & Worcester
Fire and Rescue
Service is on the Web!
www.hwfire.org.uk

See you next Wednesday



Smoke Alarms

Check your smoke alarm every week

Change the battery every year

Give your smoke alarm a birthday so that you remember when to change the battery