Fireworks Safety Lesson Plan

Ages 5 to 12
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Introduction

The Fireworks Safety Program, presented by Safe Kids Maine in partnership with Pyro City Maine, aims to provide safety awareness education to children and their caregivers to reduce the incidence of fireworks related injuries.

This lesson plan is aimed at children ages 5 to 12 and is intended to raise awareness of issues related to fireworks, while incorporating important fire safety messages appropriate to any time of year. The presentation will be conducted by representatives from Safe Kids Maine and/or Pyro City Maine who are trained to educate young people on a range of fire related safety topics.

Consumer fireworks became legal in Maine on January 1, 2012. With the increased use of fireworks, the risks to injury to children remain a concern that with proper education and safety precautions can be prevented.

For more information on the Maine Fireworks Safety Program, please visit, www.MaineFireworksSafety.org

Recommendations:

- The activities contained within this lesson plan can be incorporated into the existing school timetable to compliment any work being undertaken by teachers about fireworks safety and fire prevention.

- Activity One can be used as a stand alone lesson plan to cover important safety messages particularly relevant at this time of year

- Refer to Fireworks Safety Information Sheets (Page 7) before using the various activities with children as a reminder of the key safety messages for discussion
Activity One

Hazard Spotting Coloring Sheet

Task:

- Children should work together to identify any hazards from the worksheet and discuss the particular dangers from each hazard (suggested time 10 mins)
- Students can work individual to color the worksheet if time allows or at a later time.
- The coloring sheet should be used as a starting point for the class based activities within this session pack and used to demonstrate understanding of the class discussion surrounding fireworks safety.

See next page for worksheet for photocopying to accommodate the number of children in the class

Aims and Objectives:

The coloring sheet encourages children to identify potential hazards at a consumer fireworks event. The children should be encouraged to openly discuss the risks that are highlighted on the worksheet and suggest how these may be avoided.

The worksheet aims to encourage the children to think of their own risk management techniques that could be adapted to their own life and the type of event they may attend.

Guidance:

- Please see Discussion Point sheet (page 6) for suggestions in encouraging class discussion and a list of the issues that can be identified in the Hazard Spotting Coloring Sheet.

Please note:
Sheets can be photocopied to accommodate different class sizes and enlarged for use with children who may be visually impaired.

Alternatively the sheet could be issued as a homework activity to compliment any existing work being carried out in school. Children should be encouraged to complete this with the supervision of a parent/guardian or family member and discuss issues related to fireworks safety to strengthen the key messages they have learned in school.
Fireworks Safety

Can you spot the dangers?
Hazard Spotting Work Sheet

Discussion Points

Children should be able to identify some of the following hazards:

- children playing with fireworks
- small children with sparklers unsupervised
- wheeled toy behind children (trip hazard)
- toys scattered on the ground (trip hazards)
- teenagers drinking
- people smoking cigarettes near fireworks
- someone sitting on the fence dangerously close to the fire
- fireworks that may/may not have been lit scattered around the garden
- bonfire built too near the fence
- girl sat on the ground near to a firework
- rabbit in the hutch near the bonfire
- man in the middle of the chaos lighting a firework
- woman sitting near a box of fireworks with a cigarette
- fireworks not stored in safe, tin container/box
- generally chaotic with lots of distractions

Discussion points could include:

- encourage children to think about the dangers of people drinking alcohol when attending or supervising at events, especially people responsible for lighting the fireworks
- safe storage of fireworks for example, out of the reach of children in a tin box or container that is stored in a cool, dry place
- dangers of children holding fireworks and sparklers
- dangers of building a bonfire too close to the fence, and the risk of setting fire to the property of others or buildings close by
- dangers of cigarettes too close to unlit fireworks
- where ideally should the rabbit be? For example, left in the house or garage away from the loud noises and the smoke from the fire
You may find it useful to refer to the following information when discussing with the children some of the various issues relevant to keeping safe around fireworks. The following handouts contain information on:

- Fireworks Safety Rack Card
- Fireworks Safety Brochure
- Maine’s Consumer Fireworks Law
- National Council on Fireworks Safety: Celebrate Safely
- Useful website resources
Fireworks and the Law

- You must be at least **21 years of age** to purchase, use or possess consumer fireworks in Maine.

- Consumer fireworks may be used between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., except that on the following dates they may be used between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 a.m. the following day:
  - (1) July 4th;
  - (2) December 31st; and
  - (3) The weekends immediately before and after July 4th and December 31st.

- Consumer fireworks only on that person’s property or on the property of a person who has consented to the use of consumer fireworks on that property.

- While Maine state law allows for the sale and use of consumer fireworks, individual cities and towns may enact their own local ordinances that ban or restrict the use of fireworks. For a current list of ordinances, visit [http://www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/fireworks/](http://www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/fireworks/)

- Fines for violating the law can be as high as $500 plus court costs.

**MAINE LAW EXPRESSLY PROHIBITS PERSONS UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE FROM PURCHASING, POSSESSING OR USING CONSUMER FIREWORKS**

**FURNISHING CONSUMER FIREWORKS TO PERSONS UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE IN MAINE.**
Please help us by sparing some time to give us your comments on the activities that we have provided.

Enclosed is a Teacher Reflection and Feedback Form which we would be very grateful if you could complete and return to us at the address provided.

If you have any additional comments or would like more information please email Safe Kids Maine at safekidsmaine@tallpinesafety.org

Thank you!
Fireworks Safety Lesson Plan
Teacher Reflection and Feedback Form

We are always striving to improve our services to the community. We value your comments and feedback.

1. What is the name of your school/organization? __________________________________

2. Name of teacher: ______________________________________________________________

3. Date of presentation: ___________________________________________________________

4. Were the representatives you were in contact with courteous and professional?
   Yes   No

5. Were you offered the presentation or did you make a request for it?
   Offered       Requested

6. Were the lesson activities age appropriate?
   Yes   No

7. Were the session plans easy to incorporate into your scheme of work?
   Yes   No

8. Were the activities received well by the children?
   Yes   No

9. Did you feel the activities linked well to the learning objectives you had in mind?
   Yes   No

10. Does the school/organization have any current or future injury prevention initiatives that Safe Kids Maine could help with?
    Yes   No

11. Any other comments/suggestions for improvement:

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for completing this evaluation.
Please email the form back to safekidsmaine@tallpinesafety.org or mail to Safe Kids Maine, P.O. Box 550, Windham, ME 04062.