



Junior Grades Lesson Plan (Grade 4 – 6)

Time: 35–45 minutes

Students will learn:

- How smoke alarms work.
- Where they should be located in a home.
- How and when to test or replace them.
- How to spot fire safety hazards and help their families stay safe.

Activity Steps

1. Fire Safety Facts & Class Discussion (10–12 minutes)

Key Talking Points:

- Install smoke alarms on every storey of your home and outside all sleeping areas.
- A smoke alarm will let you know if there is a fire in your home.
- Test smoke alarms once a month by pressing the test button.
- Replace batteries at least once a year, or as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years, or earlier if they stop working properly.
- Make and practice a home fire escape plan with your family—know two ways out of every room, if possible.
- A smoke alarm will make a loud “beep, beep, beep (pause), beep, beep, beep (pause)” sound if there is smoke.
- Never remove the batteries from your smoke alarm to stop it from beeping.
- Know the different beeping sounds: a chirp, for example, means your battery needs to be changed.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, everyone should get outside. Stay outside until a grown-up says it is safe to go back inside.

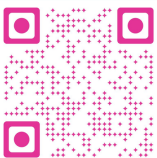
Engaging Questions:

- “Who tests the smoke alarms in your home? Why is it important to test them?”
- “What sound does your smoke alarm make? Have you ever heard the alarm sound when there was no fire? Why did that happen? (i.e. burnt cooking/toast, etc.) What did your family do when the smoke alarms went off? (if students say their parents or family removed the batteries – we can reinforce how important of never removing the batteries from a smoke alarm unless it’s time to change them)
- “Do you know where they are located? Where?”
- “Has your family planned or practiced a home fire escape plan? How many ways out of each room do you think you should have in case of an emergency? Why?” (you should know two ways out of every room, if possible)

2. Video Time (10 minutes)

Suggested Video:

- Play the OFM fire safety video produced in collaboration with TVO Kids at [SavedByTheBeep.ca/educators](https://www.savedbythebeep.ca/educators). This is a video that features Deputy Fire Marshal John McBeth and is full of great information about smoke alarm safety.





3. Home Fire Escape Plan Activity (15 minutes)

Materials:

- OFM-provided blank floor plan templates and home fire escape tip sheet.
- Markers/pencils

Instructions:

- Students draw the layout of their home using the provided template.
- Mark where they think smoke alarms should be placed:
 - One on every storey
 - One outside each sleeping area
- Mark two exits from each room, where possible (door, window, etc.).
- Have them choose a safe outdoor meeting place (e.g., tree, mailbox).
- Label it clearly.

Optional: Have students compare plans in small groups and discuss escape strategies.

