



Background

Each year the President of the United States sets aside a week in early October as Fire Prevention Week. Fires cause thousands of deaths and billions of dollars in property damage in the U.S. every year. It is more important to teach people how to prevent fires than to develop new and better ways of putting them out.

Making It Work

The week when fire departments and the media are publicizing fire prevention is a good time to start your own fire prevention program. Arrange to take your students on a field trip to a nearby fire station, if possible, as many of them will have an open house this week. Make sure your school has a fire drill this week, also.

Day 1—Fire Facts

Materials

- encyclopedias or other illustrated reference materials

Activity

This is designed to be an oral exercise to establish a general base of information. See what the students already know and give them the information they don't have. Expand on and discuss the different ideas for reinforcement.

Controlled fire is one of humanity's best friends. Primitive people used fire for:

- heating
- cooking
- turning clay into pottery
- light



Except for furnishing light, fire is used by people today for much the same things. Fire also furnishes the energy for running steam engines and other machines. It is used to separate metals from their ores and for many chemical processes.

Uncontrolled fire is one of humanity's worst enemies.

Fires have caused many deaths and billions of dollars in property damage in the United States.

Some fires are brought about by natural causes. Lightning often starts forest fires.

Some fires are caused by carelessness, and others are set on purpose.



Day 2—Safety Walk

Materials

- a map of the school for each student

Activity

Take a walk around your school and note the position of fire alarm boxes, fire extinguishers, fire hydrants, or the forest fire station. Have students mark all of these on their maps.

When you get back to the classroom, pool all of your information and make one good copy of the map. Run off enough copies to give to the school office and each classroom in the school to post for their information and safety.

Give some consideration to discussing the serious offense of giving a false alarm. Most schools have very severe penalties for this kind of misbehavior, and students should be warned ahead of time of the consequences for pulling such a prank.

Day 3—Safety Plan

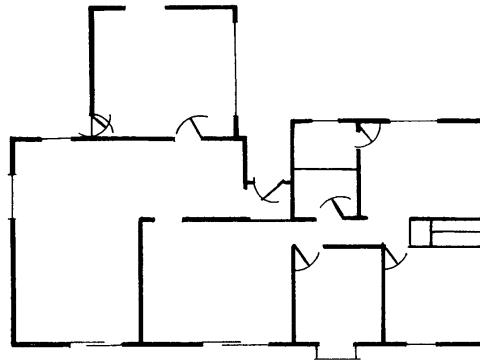
Materials

- writing materials

Activity

Have students draw a sketch of the floor plan of their homes, indicating doors and windows and a second story if they have one. If they live in an apartment or condominium, have them show stairways and attached buildings.

Send these sketches home with your students so they can discuss it with their parents and make family plans for escaping from a fire.



Day 4—Safety Posters

Materials

- large paper or poster board
- art materials

Activity

Have students create posters for Fire Prevention Week. Remind them to think of a good slogan and to use simple, bright pictures and big letters. Put the posters up around the school.



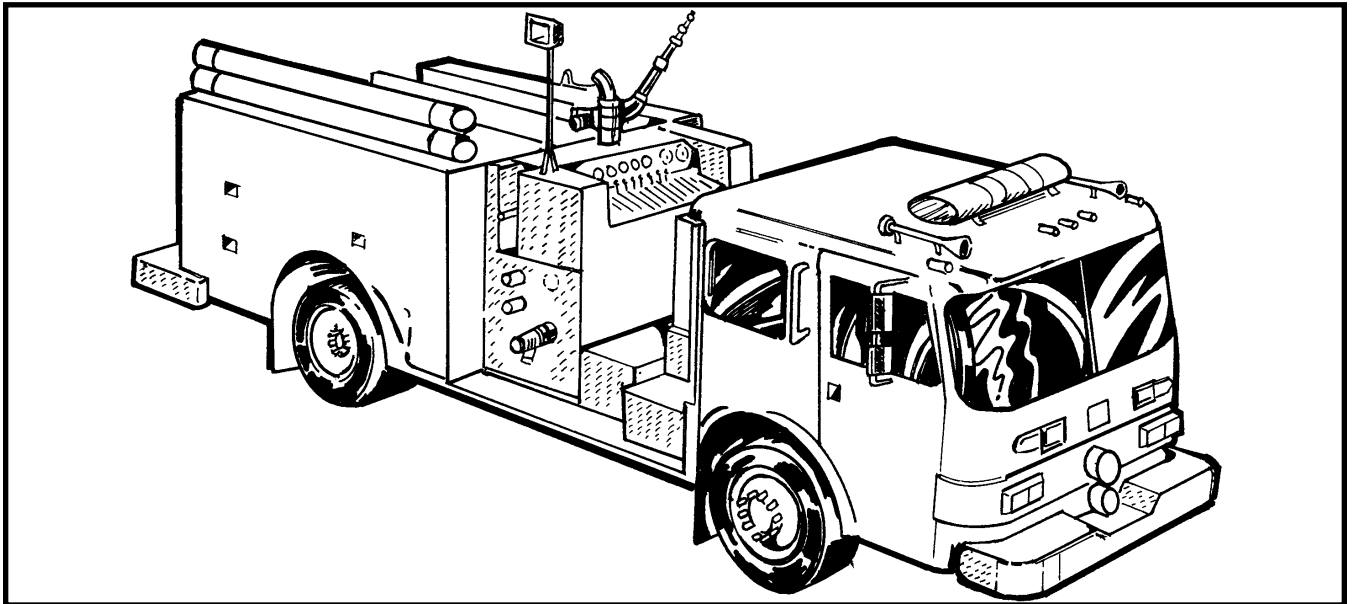
Day 5—Fire Fighting Equipment

Materials

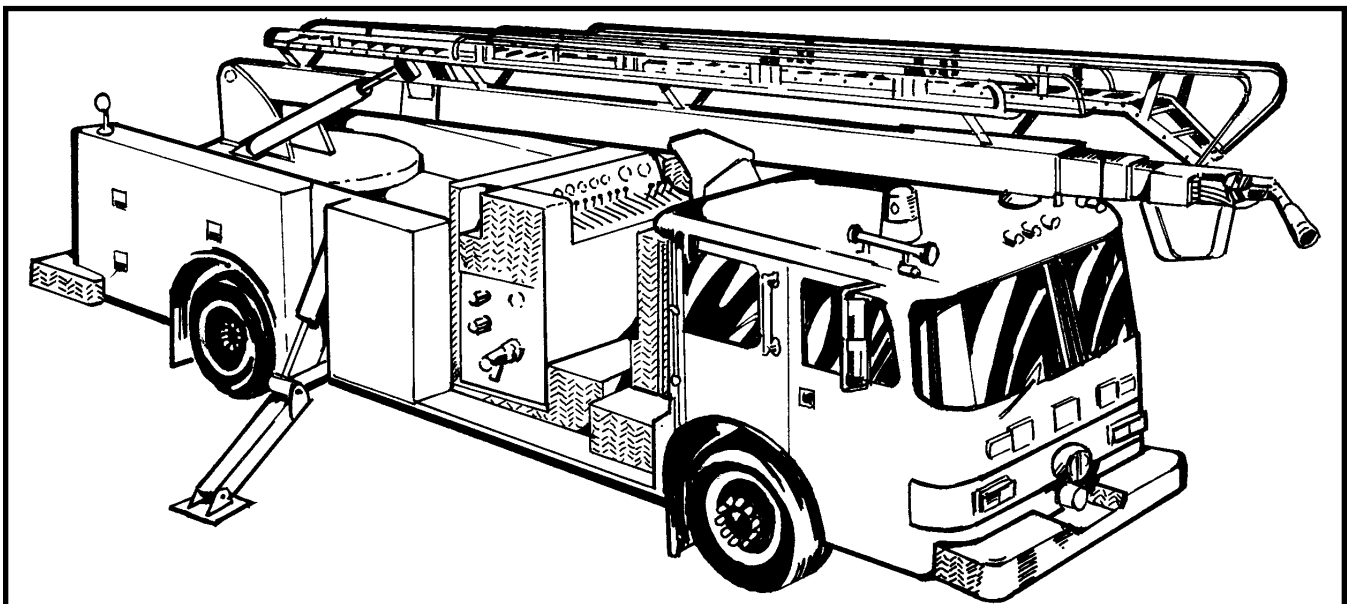
- copies of the illustrations below

Activity

Find out about and discuss each kind of fire engine.



Pumper



Ladder Truck