

Fire Safety

Fire safety is very important for Cub Scouts. This resource has some info pages and suggested activities to help explore the topic in Pack meetings and activities.

Activities:

- Visit a fire station and talk with the fire fighters
- Take part in a fire drill at your meeting place



In Sixes:

- Find out why it's important to use smoke alarms. Know how to test one and change the batteries.
- Point out some possible dangers at home or your meeting place that could start a fire.
- Draw a poster about keeping a campfire safe for everyone. How do you stay safe around a fire?
- Talk about how you should behave around a bonfire and fireworks.
- Have the Cub Scouts practice "Stop, Drop and Roll" (see below) until they feel that they can do it.



Games/meeting activities:

Fire Safety Relay Game

Following a discussion on fire safety, develop a series of questions and answers. Have the Cub Scouts line up in relay fashion. On 'GO!', one Cub Scout from each Six runs to the Scouter who asks a question. It must be correctly answered before they return to the Six. Possible questions:

- What do you do when you smell or see smoke?
- Is it a good idea to open the door and check on the fire?
- Once out of a burning building, do you run back in to get anything?
- How often do you need to check the batteries in your smoke detector?
- What is the phone number for your fire services?
- How many fire exits are there in your meeting place? Where are they?
- What kind of information does the fire department need if you call in an emergency?
- What do you do if your clothes catch on fire?

Fire, Police, and Ambulance

Setup: Three sections of the room are named “Fire”, “Police,” and “Ambulance”.

Instructions:

1. Cub Scouts start out in the middle of the room.
2. When the Scouter calls out a situation in which a Cub Scout might find himself, the Cub Scouts have to run to the correct section of the room.
3. Talk with the Cub Scouts what the answer should be and then after each situation have them go back to the middle of the room.

Suggested situations-

1. Smoke is seen coming from under the door of a house. (Fire)
2. The person washing your windows falls from a ladder while cleaning the upstairs bedroom window. (Ambulance)
3. When out on a hike in your neighbourhood you spot some bushes on fire. (Fire)
4. You see some older boys pulling down a fence at the school. (Police)
5. There is a car accident in front of your house. (Police, Ambulance)
6. You find a lost little boy on your street that you have never seen before.
(Police)
7. Your bicycle is stolen. (Police)
8. An adult who has rescued a small, unconscious girl from a river asks you to call for help. (Ambulance)
9. You see some people looking inside people’s houses on your street.
(Police)
10. You find your little brother or sister has been tasting the cleaning chemicals in the bathroom. (Ambulance)

Sample 999/112 calls

The following is an example of the types of question you will be asked if you call the emergency services. The script is standard at the beginning, but will vary later on depending on the situation and responses. The most important thing is that the caller can clearly describe where they are and what has happened:

- Emergency Operator – which service do you require? Please hold the line. I am putting you through to the Ambulance Service. Ambulance Service

- **Ambulance Operator:** This is the Ambulance Service – what telephone number are you calling from? What is your name? What address are you calling from? Can you tell me what has happened? An ambulance is on its way. I am going ask you a few more questions. This will not delay the ambulance. Is the person conscious or unconscious? (Can you talk to them, are they awake?) (Continue to ask questions until you have a clear idea of what has happened.) Don't worry; I will stay on the line with you until the ambulance gets there. The operator will stay on the line and provide advice and reassurance. They will know how far away the ambulance is and may also suggest ways to make it easier for the ambulance to find them.

Stop, Drop and Roll Scenarios

Stop.



Drop.



Roll.



Image from the Timber Lakes Volunteer Fire Department News

1. You're at a campfire. It's dark and rainy and really cold. You sneak closer and closer and closer to the bonfire to get warm. The fire is crackling and sparks are jumping out of the fire. Suddenly someone shouts really loud: 'Watch out the sleeve of your jacket is on fire!'
2. You have just had a bath and you are cosy and warm in your nightie. You want to comb out your wet hair and so you go to look at yourself in the mirror over the fire. The fire is on full and suddenly you smell burning. Help, the hem of your nightie is smoking!
3. It's a hot summer day. You are all in the garden having a BBQ. Dad is wearing a silly chef's hat and apron. He's flipping burgers and sausages on the BBQ grill when he turns to laugh and joke with your uncle. When he turns around he sees the corner of his apron has set alight

Other resources:

- Fire Safety week: firesafetyweek.ie/homes/en
- The Children's Burns Trust, a UK Charity, has an information and activities page for the Cub Scout age range: cbtrust.org.uk/learning-zone/key-stage-2-age-7-11/

Fire Drills in Den

In the event of a fire:

Get Out, Stay Out and Call the Emergency Services (999 or 112).

- Practice fire drills regularly
- Everyone should be familiar with the escape plan
- Have drills at different times during meetings
- The organiser should call out “Fire drill! Fire drill!”
- Everyone should immediately evacuate the building according to the plan
- Some should pretend to call the emergency services
- Call the roll at the meeting point
- Afterwards, review the drill; what went well and what didn’t

Make 999/112 call

How to make a 999/112 call

- Make sure you are safe before calling 999, particularly in the case of a house fire.
- Don't be scared about calling 999 - the emergency services are there to help you and are used to taking calls from children. They will guide you and offer their support as you wait for help to arrive.
- To help them understand where you are and what has happened, speak as clearly and calmly as you can. Try not to rush your words or the operator won't be able to understand you.
- When you call an operator will ask you which service you need: ambulance, fire services, Gardaí/Police
- You will need to have the following information available when you call us:
 - WHERE you are;
 - The PHONE NUMBER you are calling from;
 - Exactly what has happened
- You may also be asked to give some extra information, including:
 - Details about the person or situation;
 - If it's a medical issue, whether the patient is awake/conscious, breathing and if there is any serious bleeding or chest pain; and
 - Details of the injury and how it happened.
- Answering these questions will not delay us, but it will help us give you important first aid advice while our staff are on their way.
- You should only call in a genuine emergency.
- Don't hang up until the operator tells you to. The operator needs to have all the info they need to get to you as quickly as possible.
- Emergency calls are free

HSE Video: Making an Emergency Call - Child Safety Inside and Outside the Home youtu.be/U0rF9Cj4LJ8

Stop, Drop & Roll

If your clothing catches fire: “Stop, drop, and roll”

- Stop where you are.
- Drop to the ground and cover your eyes and mouth with your hands.
- Roll over and over and back and forth until the flames are out.

Get help from your family or a Scouter who will cool the burn and get medical help.

Stop.



Drop.



Roll.



Image from the Timber Lakes Volunteer Fire Department News

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service Video: Stop Drop and Roll!

youtu.be/O2iAO2651o8

Home Evacuation Plan

In the event of a fire:

Get Out, Stay Out and Call the Emergency Services (999 or 112).

- Have an evacuation plan for your meeting place and home
- Make sure everyone is familiar with it
- All exits should be kept clear
- Have an established meeting point away from the building.
- Everyone should leave in a safe, orderly and efficient manner
- The roll should be called when you evacuate the building
- Call the emergency services
- Practice fire drills regularly

