



Central Pierce Fire & Rescue

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www.centralpiercefirerescue.org

Lesson Topic: Making Safe & Responsible Choices Time: 45-55 mins	Audience: 6-8 graders Teaching Strategy: Direct Instruction, Think-Pair, Share, Call & Response Attention Getters, Class Discussion. Option of Student Led for independent learners	Common Core Standards
Objectives: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accurately rate the level of risky behavior as safe or unsafe. ● Apply responsible decision making to reduce risk. ● Select safe and responsible choices involving fire. 		RI.6.1 RI.7.1 RI.8.1
Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Projector/TV for PowerPoint Presentation ● Student laptop or tablet ● Student resources (presentation, worksheet, article, glossary and answer key) ● Handout for teachers to send home to parents/guardians 		RI.6.3 RI.7.3 RI.8.3
Lesson Introduction (5 minutes) Hook/Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain how they will be completing a lesson provided by Central Pierce Fire and Rescue on Making Safe and Responsible Choices. ● Brief introduction: Introduce Making Safe and Responsible Choices Presentation (has four sections with questions scattered throughout. Record answers on their worksheet) ● Remind students to check the notes section of each slide for additional information. ● Identify the learning objectives as listed above. 		W.6.1 W.7.1 W.8.1 W.6.9 W.7.9 W.8.9 W.6.10 W.7.10 W.8.10
Lesson Body (30-40 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This lesson can be an independent activity, partner activity or teacher-led. A. Teacher-Led Option <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Present survey questions (1–4). ● Students predict answers with a tablemate and justify their thinking. ● Review correct answers. ● Introduce topic: Risky Behaviors. ● Define <i>risky</i>: “Full of the possibility of danger, failure, or loss.” ● Students identify fire-related risky behaviors; record responses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include fireworks, brush fires, vacant structures, dumpsters, bonfires, makeshift bombs, smoking. ○ Emphasize: Some behaviors carry risk, but responsible choices reduce danger. ○ Example: Cooking is risky—safety steps lower the danger. 		



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Video Segment

- Show a 2-minute video on the prefrontal cortex (decision-making) and amygdala (emotional responses).
- Review: Prefrontal cortex develops into the mid-20s → youth may take more risks.
- Connect to the importance of learning safe and responsible decision-making.

Questions & Discussion: Allow students time to work through Questions 5–7 between various Think-Pair-Share discussion points.

- Q5: Risky fire behaviors
- Students list examples; record responses.
- Think-Pair-Share:
 - Safe uses of fire
 - Rules/safety steps for using fire
- Reinforce that fire is useful when used safely (cooking, heating, science, work).
- Q6: Why youth engage in risky fire behaviors
 - Record reasons (fun, thrill, peer pressure, boredom, anger, curiosity, etc.).
 - Introduce “weighing consequences” and “serious consequences.”
 - Think-Pair-Share: Negative consequences of risky fire behavior; which are most serious/long-lasting?
 - Example scenario: Positive vs. negative consequences of fireworks.
- Q7: Actions to avoid risky behavior
 - Discuss strategies: walk away, resist peer pressure, tell an adult, talk peers out of it, choose safer alternatives.
 - Stress: Making unsafe choices = accepting responsibility for outcomes.
 - Review appropriate actions in fire emergencies (call 911, alert an adult, evacuate, help others).

Situational Awareness (Q8–11) Work through scenario questions; discuss best solutions. Answers provided in key and in presentation slides.

Article: Students read the article and complete the related questions in their worksheet (independently or with a partner). Glossary can be paired with the article to assist with and reinforce key vocabulary.

B. Independent Learning Option

- Students read each slide and slide notes.
- Complete the *Making Safe & Responsible Choices* worksheet for each section.
- Stop at checkpoints to compare answers with the answer key.
- Sample answers are provided for reference.

Lesson Conclusion (5-8 minutes)

- Collect students' *Making Safe and Responsible Choices* worksheets.
- Review key message: **fire-related risky behaviors have real dangers and negative consequences.**
- Remind students that **learning to make safe choices takes time**—and if they make a mistake, they must take responsibility and seek help.
- If time allows, address any questions about today's learning.

Important Lesson Points

- Determining which fire related behaviors are risky.
- Weighing the consequences of your risky choices.
- What actions you can



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	take to avoid risky behavior.
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