

# WILDFIRE PREVENTION SCHOOL PROGRAM

## Preschool Program

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Forestry

Division of

Basic Fire Prevention Concepts

Presentation Introduction

Preschool Lessons

Lesson I - Smokey Bear  
Flannel Board Story

Lesson II - Who Am I?

Lesson III - Being A Forester

Presentation Conclusion

Handouts

Smokey Bear Song Sheet

Conservation Pledge

Coloring Sheet

## Credits

Ministry of Natural Resources  
Fire Prevention School Program, Ontario, Canada

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Project Wild  
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Western Regional Environmental Education Council

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# Video List

Your school may order videos by contacting: DNR Information Center, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4040, number 651-297-6157. Please order by catalog number.

## **Introduction To Fire**

11 min. VHS Cat. No. V926 Ages 4-6

Provided by DNR, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention Committee. Slide-tape on video narrated by a child who discusses how trees are important to us in our everyday lives. Explains how fire, used properly, can be used to cook our food, heat water, and can be our best friend. Fire used carelessly can damage our homes and forests. Concludes with how children can be safe and avoid dangerous situations with fire.

## **“Ouch” Said the Tree**

6 min. VHS Cat. No. V927 Ages 5-9

Provided by DNR, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention Committee. Slide-tape on video narrated by a child. Storyline is in “Ouch Said The Tree” song. Shows fires started by kids playing with matches, unattended campfire, trash burning, and cigarettes. Many slides of fires and fire suppression activities.

## **Please Don't Light That Fire**

7 min VHS Cat. No. V928 Ages 5-7

Provided by DNR, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention Committee. Grade 2 lesson plan, narrated slide show. Nicholas and Jennifer go for a picnic in the forest. They find some matches and decide to start a campfire. Oakley the oak tree stops them and tells a story of how dangerous fires are to the trees in the forest.

## **Smokey's Fire Safety Tips**

8 min VHS Cat. No. V929 Grade 3

Provided by DNR, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention Committee. Four children go for a hike in the woods; find animal sign and matches. As they try to light a campfire, Smokey comes and tells them about fire prevention and how the forest is home to animals.

## **Smokey Bear**

18 min. VHS Cat. No. V249 Ages 8-12

Provided by DNR, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention Committee. Grandpa (Denver Pyle) and children play in forest through the seasons, have a campfire and tell the story of Smokey Bear. Ends with what Smokey means today. Smokey Bear song at the end.

## **Forest Fire**

8 min VHS Cat. No. V931 Ages 9-12

Provided by DNR, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention Committee. Slide-tape on video. Minnesota oriented. Campfire, debris, and children caused fires; explanation and safety. Results of forest fires (i.e. losses).

## **Forests Are More Than Trees**

19 min VHS Cat. No. V932 Ages 10-18

Provided by DNR, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention Committee. Slide-tape on video. Video covers: wildfire sign in the forest, different parts of forest used by different animals, tree rings, life cycles, tree types, tree ranges, tree and animal adaptation to climatic zones, logging history, old growth and preservation, public and private forest lands, distribution and use, timber products, watershed management, photosynthesis, carbon cycle, multiple use management, reforestation and deforestation due to development, acid rain, fire limiting forest use and recycling.

## **The Oregon Fire Disaster - 1987**

18 min. VHS Cat. No. V933 Ages 10 - Adult

Provided by DNR, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention Committee. The 1987 Oregon fire season had some of the worst fire conditions in recent history. During the fire season two people died, many homes were lost, and many people were evacuated. Federal, state and private agencies and companies combined forces to work together to control these forest fires. Assistance came from across the nation to help out in one of the largest mobilizations of fire suppression resources in history. Good description of the job of fire fighters and the support effort necessary to bring major forest fires under control.

## Basic Fire Prevention Concepts

There are many things that live and grow in the forest: trees, bushes, flowers, large animals, small animals, birds, and insects.

Trees are important because they give us wood for building and paper to write on.

Fire can destroy small plants, bushes, and trees.

Fire can force animals, birds, and insects away from where they live by destroying their homes and the food they eat.

Some people cause forest fires by not being careful with burning garbage, matches, cigarettes, and campfires.

Children should never play with matches.

Children should tell an adult about any fires that are burning.

Children should never try to put a fire out themselves.

## Vocabulary

The following words are listed for the purpose of providing a vocabulary guide for your presentation. Children should become familiar with these words when presented to them in a fire prevention context. A few of these terms may be completely new to students (e.g., prevention), so the meaning should be made clear to them at the point in the presentation the word is used.

animal  
burn  
campfire  
camping  
careful  
careless

cigarette  
fire  
forest  
forest fire  
garbage

matches  
prevention  
trash  
tree  
wood

## **Presentation Introduction**

Introduce yourself if you are not the children's regular teacher. Give a simple description of what you do.

Explain to the children that you will be talking about forest fires and ways people can be fire safe so they don't set the forests on fire.

Explain to them briefly what you have planned for the program.

Tell the children they will have a chance to ask questions at the end of the program.

## **Lesson I: Smokey Bear Flannel Board Story**

Introduction . . . . .	5 min. maximum
Discuss the Basic Fire Prevention Concepts . . . . .	10 min. maximum
Smokey Bear Flannel Board Story . . . . .	10 min. maximum
Smokey Bear Visit . . . . .	10 min. maximum
Student/Teacher Handouts . . . . .	5 min. maximum

## **Objectives**

Develop an awareness of forest fire prevention.

Develop an appreciation of the forest.

To understand some of the ways forest fires can start.

## **Materials**

- Ž Flannel Board
- Ž Smokey Bear Flannel Board Story Pieces
- Ž Smokey Costume
- Ž Student/Teacher Handouts

## **Smokey Bear Flannel Board Story - Introduction**

Follow the suggested introduction and basic fire prevention concepts that precede this lesson.

**K** Before you do the flannel board story, you need a flannel board. A simple flannel board can be made by stretching flannel across a board and stapling it to the board. An alternative to the flannel board is a magnetic board. The story pieces can then be mounted with magnets on the back of each piece and placed on the board.

**K** Flannel board pieces are found in a separate file called Pflannel.pdf. They should be pasted to flannel pieces and cut out.

## **Smokey Bear Flannel Board Story**

This story happened not too long ago in a big forest. (Trees, Grass). It was a very hot day and all of the forest animals were resting in the shade of the trees. (Squirrel, Small Bear). One little bear cub which had left its mother to play in the meadow was the only forest creature stirring.

Then it happened! Some careless person flipped a lighted match, or left his campfire burning. A little flame (Small Flame) started in the grass and began to burn. Quickly, it spread until the flame became a roaring forest fire. (Replace Small Flame with Large Flame).

The birds and other animals began to try to get away from the flames. They ran as fast as they could from the fire. (Take Away Squirrel).

The fire jumped to the trees and began to spread even faster. Smoke from the fire filled the air. (Smoke). The men in the lookout tower spotted the forest fire and fire fighters rushed to the scene. (Fire Fighter). But the flames were already so hot that the fire fighters could do nothing but lie down on the ground and cover their faces to keep from smothering.

When the fire was all over and the smoke had cleared, the forest did not look much like it had before. All of the trees and animals were gone. (Remove Trees, Squirrel). There were only burned stumps left. (Burned Stumps).

The fire fighters got up and looked around, but they only saw one living thing - a badly burned little bear cub clinging to a burned tree limb. As the fire fighters carried the little cub through the forest that had been his home, what do you

suppose he saw? (Burned Trees). He saw the burned trees that would never again offer cool shade to the animals. How were the trees useful to people before they were burned? They had provided materials for homes, furniture, paper, and many other useful things.

The little cub saw that there was no grass. (Burned Grass). In what ways would this harm the life of the forest? There would be no grass to feed the animals or protect the soil from heavy rains. Could a lack of grass in the forest affect us in any way?

A very sad thing for the burned cub to see was the stream filled with ashes. What life in the forest depends on streams? If the streams were no longer a good home for fish or a good drinking place for the other animals, how would it affect us?

The fire fighters took the little cub home with them. They bandaged his burned feet and fed him baby food. And they gave the little cub a name - Smokey. Someone put a forest ranger's hat on his head (Hat on Bear), and smokey posed for many pictures. He also made personal appearances and appeared on television programs.

Smokey Bear became a symbol for the prevention of forest fires. (Large Smokey). He is very famous. Smokey has a very important message for all of us. Prevent Forest Fires! What do you think he wants us to remember when we are in the forest? He wants us to be careful to put out campfires before we leave them - all the way out. How can we make sure a campfire is completely out? He also knows that children should never play with matches because they could very easily cause a destructive forest fire. Smokey wants to be sure that boys and girls will report a fire to someone if they see one. Children can even remind adults that are careless, if they do it in a nice way.

Above all, Smokey wants all of us to make certain that we are never the careless person who starts a forest fire that can destroy the animals, grass, water, and soil of the forest.

Ž Follow this activity with a visit from Smokey Bear - Contact your local DNR Forestry Office to schedule a visit.

## Lesson II: Who Am I?

Introduction .....	5 min. maximum
Discuss the Basic Fire Prevention Concepts .....	10 min. maximum
Game: Who Am I? .....	10 min. maximum
Smokey Bear Visit .....	10 min. maximum
Student/Teacher Handouts .....	5 min. maximum

### Objectives

Develop an awareness of forest fire prevention.  
Develop an appreciation of the forest.  
To understand some of the ways forest fires can start.

### Materials

Ž Smokey Costume  
Ž Student/Teacher Handouts

### Game: Who Am I?

Follow the suggested introduction and the basic fire prevention concepts that precede this lesson.

Begin by asking something in the form of a question. "What lives in a tree, eats berries and nuts, and has four small legs?" When the child makes a mistake say, "guess again," and restate the statement as a fact; "A bird has two legs doesn't it?" (Reestablish facts in order to unlearn mistakes). In the descriptions given to the children, sounds or uses of the word being guessed can also be given.

#### Other Examples:

tree - What has a trunk and leaves and is green and brown?

bird - What flies, and has wings and feet?

fire - What can move quickly through the forest, chase animals and birds away from their homes, and kills plants and trees in it's path?

bear - \*

\*End with bear, e.g. "What lives in the forest, growls (make sound), and likes to eat blueberries?"



After the students have guessed bear, this is a good opportunity to introduce a much more important bear "Smokey"



## Lesson III: Being A Forester

Introduction .....	5 min. maximum
Discuss the Basic Fire Prevention Concepts .....	10 min. maximum
Talk to the Students About a Forester's Job .....	10 min. maximum
Smokey Bear Visit .....	10 min. maximum
Student/Teacher Handouts .....	5 min. maximum

### Objectives

- Develop an awareness of forest fire prevention.
- Develop a respect for the forest.
- Understand some of the ways people can prevent fires.
- Understand DNR's role in forest fire prevention and responsibility for putting out forest fires.

### Materials

- Ž Smokey Costume
- Ž Student/Teacher Handouts
- Ž Gloves, fire shirt, fire pants, pump tank, canteen, flashlight, fire truck.

Teacher note: Contact your local DNR Forester for a visit.

### Being A Forester

Begin by talking to the students about fire prevention. Follow the suggested introduction and the basic fire prevention concepts that precede this lesson.

Continue your discussion to include what a Forester does. Children may confuse a forester in uniform with a policeman. As you talk about a forester's job and fire prevention, you may want to demonstrate equipment and show students some of the different clothes that foresters wear (For example Gloves, fire shirt, fire pants, pump tank, canteen, flashlight, and fire truck.) It may be possible keep some of this equipment for a day in the classroom so the children can play with it.

Children of this age do much of their learning through their experiences and through their ability to act out these experiences through play.

If time allows, you may want to include a visit from Smokey Bear.

## **Presentation Conclusion**

### **Smokey Visit**

Introduce Smokey. Tell the students that Smokey has come to remind us to be careful with fire and to remind boys and girls never to play with matches or any fire.

Be sure that the person who wears the Smokey costume understands that Smokey is a respected symbol of fire prevention and must act with dignity and respect. Smokey also does not talk, but can communicate through gestures.

A visit from Smokey can be a lasting experience, so be sure the students are aware of what Smokey represents.

You may want to read the story of Smokey Bear or be prepared to answer questions about Smokey.

Book the Smokey costume well in advance of the presentation.

### **Presentation Conclusion**

If there is any area you have failed to cover, you may wish to do so at this point. By the end of the presentation, the students should have an understanding of the basic fire prevention concepts. You may wish to ask a few general questions to ensure the students have understood the main concepts.

At this point, you can answer any questions the students may have.

Thank the students for being attentive listeners.

### **Student/Teacher Handouts**

When a forester visits, they will usually bring a small token or handout for each student to remind them of the visit. Most students will show this to their parents. This encourages the students to talk to their parents about what they have learned and to bring the fire prevention message home.

The number and types of handouts given to each child should be kept to a minimum. It has been found that when too many handouts are passed out, many are discarded.

### **Handouts**

The handout pages are found in file handouts\_p.pdf and can be photocopied and handed out to students after any of these lessons. The Smokey Song may be sung by the class. Contact your DNR Forester for a classroom poster.