



Home Safety

Background

MASTERS OF DISASTER®

Home Safety

Home safety is one of the topics in the series of *Masters of Disaster* materials created by the American Red Cross for schools, clubs, organizations and families across the country. *Home Safety* not only leads young people to understand safe behavior, it also helps them figure out, and then internalize, ways to prevent accidents in the home.

These activities are specifically tailored for reaching children in lower elementary (K–2), upper elementary (3–5) and middle school (6–8) grades. *Home Safety* is divided into five sections:

- General Injury Prevention
- Burns
- Breathing Emergencies
- Slips, Trips and Falls
- Poisoning

Masters of Disaster Connections

Refer to the following modules in the *Masters of Disaster* series to learn more about a particular topic and to reinforce the objectives of the lesson.

Knowing how to prevent fire is vitally important to children and families because so many children are injured each year by fire. To complete the lessons on home safety, use the *Masters of Disaster* module *Fire Prevention and Safety*.

An essential part of preparing for any disaster is to be ready with plans, supplies and practice. *Be Disaster Safe* from *Masters of Disaster* inspires young people by teaching them to prepare for all hazards. The lessons of *In the Aftermath* focus on recovery after a disaster—for the individual, the school and the community.

Why Talk About Home Safety?

Injury-prevention and preparedness education fosters a safe home environment. Your role in teaching the lessons in *Home Safety*, and in making sure the messages are implemented at home, is vitally important in helping young people develop safe habits for a lifetime.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) statistics on childhood injuries for children 1 to 14 years old, more than 6 million children needed medical attention because of an unintentional injury in 2004 and another 5,359 children died as a result of unintentional injuries). Unintentional injuries resulting in the deaths of children have steadily declined in the past 10 years; however, they remain the leading cause of death for children in this age group.



Visit the American Red Cross Web site
at www.redcross.org/disaster/masters



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Although motor vehicles are responsible for more fatalities among children than any other cause of unintentional injuries, this curriculum focuses on preventing and avoiding common fatal and nonfatal unintentional injuries that often happen in the home. In addition to general injury prevention, the topics covered in these materials are burns; breathing emergencies; slips, trips and falls; and poisoning. According to the CDC, these were all among the top 10 categories of unintentional injuries resulting in death among children ages 1 to 14 in 2004.

The checklists provided in the Checklist section give valuable information about these topics and practical steps to take to improve the safety of children's environments and prevent injury. All checklists may be reproduced for distribution to your students and their families.

Source:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Accessed March 27, 2007, at www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars.

For more detailed information about how to prevent fires, contact your local chapter of the American Red Cross and/or visit www.redcross.org/disaster/masters to learn how to obtain copies of Masters of Disaster Fire Prevention and Safety.

In Case of Emergency

Make sure that your students are always ready to call for emergency help. Remember that—

- Although we generally use 9-1-1 as the universal emergency number in the United States, your community may have different emergency numbers, or your school building may require dialing an initial number to get an outside line. Make sure that your students are familiar with local emergency calling procedures and that you modify the appropriate lessons and activities to reflect these procedures if necessary.
- The Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222) can provide educational information about what is poisonous and emergency information about what to do in case of poisoning. The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) has brochures to download on its Web site as well as links to local and regional poison control centers at www.aapcc.org/. There may be other local telephone numbers in your community that people can call for similar information.



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Important Information from the Red Cross

The *Home Safety* curriculum helps students and families practice safe behavior that will lead to safer environments and fewer accidents. But accidents still happen. How can young people be prepared in case of an emergency? The American Red Cross offers many opportunities for students to learn the best actions to take in all types of emergency situations.

Contact your local Red Cross chapter to find out more, or check the *Masters of Disaster* Web site at www.redcross.org/disaster/masters.

- **First Aid and Preparedness, Level 1 and Level 2**—Tailored to specific age groups, these presentations provide students with valuable lifesaving tips to help them prevent and prepare for emergencies at school or at home. Topics include what to do in emergencies; calling 9-1-1; conscious choking; introduction to CPR and first aid principles; and practicing basic first-aid skills. Any staff member with current First Aid or CPR certification can lead this interactive presentation. (*Grades 1–5 and 6–8*)
- **First Aid for Children Today (FACT)**—The FACT Critter Clan leads children through health-promotion and injury-prevention activities. Its environmental theme teaches safety in a nonthreatening way. Topics include hygiene and health habits, first aid, personal safety and injury prevention. Instructor training is not required to teach this course. (*Grades K–3*)
- **Basic Aid Training (BAT)**—Children learn emergency response skills; rescue breathing; and ways to prevent and care for choking, wounds, nosebleeds, falls and animal bites. The course includes responses for fires, poisoning, water accidents, substance abuse and more. Optional activities expand the 6-hour course to 12 hours. Instructor training is not required to teach this course. (*Grades 3–5*)
- **Babysitter’s Training**—This very popular course gives 11- to 15-year-olds the knowledge, skills and confidence to care for infants and school-age children. Babysitter’s Training combines video, activities, hands-on skills training and discussion for the most complete learning experience. (*Grades 5–9*)
- **Longfellow’s WHALE Tales**—An easy-to-follow lesson plan supports classroom water safety training for students ages 5 to 12. Each session features Longfellow the Whale in an animated video, plus activities, posters and worksheets. Instructor training is not required to teach this course. (*Grades K–6*)
- **Water Safety Today**—This exciting, fact-filled course teaches students how to stay safe when enjoying water sports. It includes easy-to-remember safety tips for pools, spas, water parks, lakes, rivers, oceans and many other popular aquatic environments. (*Grades 4–12*)



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- **GuardStart™–Lifeguarding Tomorrow**—Designed for young people ages 11 to 14, this exciting program teaches the aquatic and leadership skills participants need to begin lifeguard training. Topics include preventing drowning and diving accidents, swimming skills and fitness, emergency response procedures, and decision-making and communication skills. (*Grades 5–8*)



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