

## THE HARTFORD'S JUNIOR FIRE MARSHAL® PROGRAM

## WILDFIRE SAFETY: WHAT YOUR STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW.



### TEACH YOUR STUDENTS TO BE WILDFIRE SAFETY CHAMPIONS.

As an educator in a wildfire-prone area, you play an important role in helping your K-3 students learn about wildfire safety. This Wildfire Supplement can help. Use it in conjunction with the curriculum found in The Hartford's Junior Fire Marshal Program Educator's Guide.

#### OBJECTIVE

Children will learn:

- How wildfires can start and how quickly they can spread.
- How to recognize the hazards that can help lead to the ignition of wildfires.
- How they can help their families and communities stay safe.



#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- Every year, wildfires burn across the United States, and a growing number of people are living where wildfires are a real risk.
- In 2017, the U.S. saw 71,000+ wildfires burn about 10 million+ acres of land.<sup>1</sup>
- Wildfires can double in size every 30 seconds, and can move even more quickly with high winds.
- Wildfires are frequently caused by unattended campfires, fireworks, burning debris, engine sparks and compromised power lines.
- Many wildfires spread when embers float through the air and travel from tree to tree.
- The easiest way to combat embers is to clear leaves, needles or other debris from around your home. It's important to keep gutters clean and

clear debris from the top of decks and below them, including leaves, kindling and remove propane tanks.

- Vines, shrubs and vegetation should be removed from the side of houses and branches should be clipped back within 15 feet of chimneys.
- Families should work together to clean up their properties and develop wildfire escape plans, which could involve drawing maps of all of the ways out of their communities in the event that one route is unpassable.

continued



## ACTIVITY

### Supplies

None



### Location

Classroom

### Steps

1. Discuss the dangers of wildfires and how quickly they could spread, potentially creating an unsafe situation.
2. As a group, discuss those items that might be important to have ready in the event that a quick evacuation is necessary.
3. Have each student discuss, or write down, the things they think they would need to have packed at home to prepare for that situation.
4. Go through the items as a group and discuss why they are important. This may be a good time to discuss the differences between those items students would like to have (books, toys, etc.) and those things they need to have (blanket, water, etc.)

### Items to have packed and ready for a quick evacuation include:

» Blanket	» Sturdy shoes and jacket
» Change of clothes	» Sunglasses
» First aid kit	» Tissue packet
» Granola or protein bars	» Toiletries
» Poncho/rain jacket	» Water
» Prescription medication	» Zipper bag to keep things dry

### Superpowers

- Talking
- Thinking

To learn more about fire safety, visit [TheHartford.com/jfm](http://TheHartford.com/jfm).



Business Insurance

Employee Benefits

Auto

Home

<sup>1</sup> According to the National Interagency Fire Center.

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