

FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

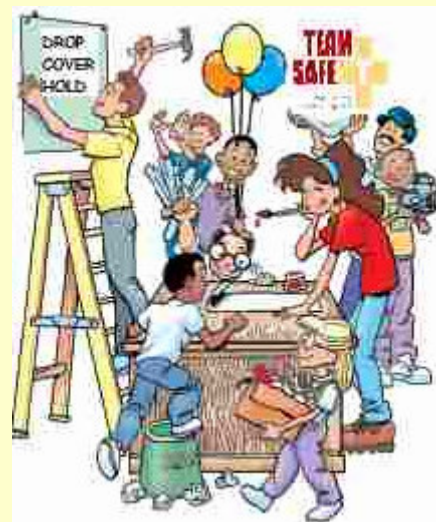


Wants To Help
Increase
Preparedness



Thank you for ensuring that future generations will Be Smart. Be Responsible. Be Prepared. Be Ready! And WELCOME to **Team SAFE-T: A California Partnership for Safety and Preparedness** an exciting initiative that will get your entire school community talking about fire safety! Whether you are a principal, facilities director, emergency personnel, nurse, teacher, guidance counselor, parent, student, or administrator, you can make a difference in school safety with this program.

No doubt you already understand the benefits of basic Fire evacuation drills. But now you'll be able to engage students by incorporating a disaster preparedness program into your existing curriculum — and, ultimately, you might bring city and state-wide recognition to your school, too! It's all possible, thanks to dedicated community members like you, with help from **TEAM SAFE-T**. Not many things taught in school can save lives; this innovative safety and preparedness network is striving to help schools teach students, families and staff to do just that.



Your Partners,



<i>Inside This Guide</i>	
About Team SAFE-T	2
The Statistics: Why Act Now?	3
School Action Plan	4
Integrating Safety Curriculum	5-7
Step-by-Step Implantation	8
www.teamsafe-t.org	

About The Team SAFE-T Program

Safer School, Safer Families Now

Team SAFE-T is a grassroots, education-based effort in California to improve school safety and family readiness by making preparedness activities an integral part of the school year. What could be more important than the safety and well being of our schools and families?

Every day we are reminded of the dangers that face students, our friends and colleagues. One needs to look no further than the morning's headlines to find the latest natural or man-made disaster. The problem is that for many people, especially young people, preparedness just isn't a priority. So here are the tools you need to get your school community acting *proactive instead of reactive* today!

How We Help

Team SAFE-T is the first all-hazards curriculum of its kind in America. Using character education, team teaching and innovative online resources, Team SAFE-T empowers students and provides both them and their families with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively respond in various dangerous and emergency situations.

The program includes age-appropriate integrated lesson plans, discussion topics and activities available for grades K-12. Administered through Californian's schools, Team SAFE-T's reaches families through culturally translated take-home materials.

Enclosed you'll find additional background information on the program, detailed instructions on how to get started, and online links to program materials for parents, teachers and administrators.

About Team SAFE-T's **FIRE SAFETY** Program

Getting everyone excited, especially the students, is key. As you work through the curricular ideas (see pages 5, 6 and 7), you'll find lots of innovative, standards-based activities that integrate emergency preparedness and volunteerism into your existing curriculum.

TAKE CHARGE!

Ideally, this is a team-teaching endeavor, spanning any variety of classes and disciplines – the more participants, the better. Take charge and make a difference. Invite staff with the interest, motivation, and enthusiasm for this topic to meet and discuss the Team SAFE-T program. Think of including:

- School Nurses
- PE Teachers
- Health Teachers
- Student Group(s)
- Custodial/Maintenance Staff
- PTA/PTO or Parent Leaders
- Community Groups - Chamber of Commerce, etc.
- State or Local Emergency Preparedness Personnel
- Social Studies Teachers
- Teacher Aides
- Administrators
- Science Teachers

INSPIRE YOUR PEERS!

Use these topics for a kick-off discussion:

- How does evacuation and other drilling affect learning in your school?
- How can local and community groups excite staff and students about the benefits of Fire Safety school programs?
- How can Team SAFE-T supplement the school curriculum, address education standards, and excite staff and students about the benefits of a prepared school community?

LOG ON NOW: www.teamsafe-t.org or call 1-866-71-SAFE-T

Campus Safety: It's Time To Act

Approximately **6.5 million young children** and adolescents in California, some of the state's most vulnerable citizens, spend significant amounts of time each day in school.

Families trust schools to keep their children safe, and assume that schools have long prepared to meet this expectation with a planned approach to respond to crisis events.

Meanwhile, **California laws require public schools to establish emergency preparedness systems**, including disaster plans, contingencies plans, and preparedness training for staff and students.

Unfortunately, California schools struggle to keep pace with the required safety precautions.

Quests to meet yearly national achievement standards don't allow schools to spend adequate time preparing students for crisis situations and mitigating violence and disasters.

The Government Accounting Office (GAO) noted in the Status of School Districts' Planning and Preparedness, a report released in May of 2007, that while significant school safety threats persists, **school emergency preparedness plans and training are not adequate**, and funding for school safety is declining in a significant percentage of local schools.

Studies have linked an **increase in positive commitment to school**, higher levels of school attachment or affiliation, and low levels of antisocial sentiment in students, decrease risks for joining a gang or participating in youth violence, **decrease incidences of threats**, violence and feelings of fear.¹

Solution:

A model is critically needed: one that is easy to use, simple to implement and cost effective so that schools can live up to the motto of "leaving no child behind" – literally.

Other safety curriculums do exist, but no other program offers free materials that are integrated into existing subject areas and approved and aligned with state-standards. By integrating safety, preparedness and citizenship training in schools and using materials that are aligned with California standards, Team SAFE-T's addresses the climate of safety on school campuses by increasing the culture of emergency readiness and personal responsibility.

Team SAFE-T, with approval from the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the California State Department of Education, has coordinated with emergency, law enforcement and curriculum specialists to develop simple, holistic, and all-hazard preparedness, safety and citizenship training materials that include lesson plans, discussion topics, teacher background information, teacher skills training, activity worksheets, career/service-work opportunities, translated take-home assignments and administration support materials.

With Team SAFE-T, individual and family programming can be tailored to the specific hazards and threats of local districts, schools and communities. All Team SAFE-T program elements include integrated family components that are culturally translated in 12 different languages parents can understand.

Making It Happen On Your Campus

In the real world, changing behavior in schools means more than learning “Stop Drop and Roll.”

Today’s schools often face real barriers to fire safety and emergency preparedness. Insufficient time within the school day, a focus on behavioral problems and other distractions, lack of resources and even fear can prevent emergency education from happening.

So what can one person or one school do?

There are short-term and long-term strategies that can help you incorporate preparedness education for your students and their families into existing school activities. The ultimate goals are increasing the preparedness of students, staff and their family members and reducing the impact of emergencies for the school as a whole.





Solutions	<p>Challenges: In today’s world of high-stakes testing, there just isn’t time to teach about emergency preparedness and fire safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point out that Team SAFE-T is linked to California state curriculum, approved by the CA Department of Education and is endorsed by Superintendent Jack O’Connell and CA First Lady Maria Shriver, among others. • Get other teachers excited about helping to integrate preparedness into the curriculum: health, science teachers, social studies and history teachers particular have strong incentives. • Include the school nurse, elective teachers, facilities director or any one on campus passionate about emergency service – the more team members you have talking about safety, the easier it is to break down barriers.
Solutions	<p>Challenges: Emergency Preparedness isn’t a priority for the administration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss with the administration the safety threats faced by students everyday, and how preparedness planning meets those needs • Use concerned parents and organized parent leadership to make your case. Ask parents how comfortable they are with the school’s emergency plans. • Demonstrate to schools leaders that this preparedness programs is an effective, low-cost way to get multi-cultural families involved in your school community by offering information and skills they need in languages they understand. • Point out that California schools are mandated to perform evacuation drills, offer preparedness information and distribute it to staff, student and parents. • Talk about ways the school could receive state-wide recognition for being a prepared and ready school.
Solutions	<p>Challenges: There’s a “Responsibility Gap” – who’s supposed to pay for it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stress that funding isn’t an issue: ready-made materials, templates, downloads, guides and a support network means more efficient use of existing resources. • Encourage team members that preparedness can be EASY: Team SAFE-T’s step-by step guides and straightforward, brief lesson plans are meant to eliminate barriers to teacher implementation. • Alert the school community to the ADDED benefits of program participation like: like no-cost inspections, hazard mitigation, disaster plan assistance, student projects, assemblies with Fire Personnel, opportunity to participate in media events, etc.

Integrating Preparedness into the Curriculum

So with all the evidence that shows how unprepared we are for a disaster, how critical schools are in emergency and the added benefits of discussing preparedness on campus, incorporating fire safety preparedness education into the school day may now be a question of “how,” instead of matter of “why.” The answer lies in integrating emergency preparedness into your existing curricular areas. The ideas below are just some of the California (and National) education standards- linked lessons available on the Team SAFE-T website. Use them to get your students and their families educated about their personal responsibility to be prepared.




 = Sample Lesson Plan  = Academically Notable  = Home Connection

Earth Science and Geology

-  In “The Science of Lightning” students are for the first time introduced to the science behind nature’s most exciting –and sometimes most dangerous - phenomenon. (Elem., Grade 4)
 -  In “Fire-Flood Cycle” students get a concrete understanding of a natural phenomenon at root cause of many California disasters. (High School)
 -  In “Listen Up! It’s a Warning” students learn about NOAA radios, how they work, understanding their warnings and translating that into appropriate safety behaviors. (High School)
-  In-class Experiment; Internet-linked Lessons; National standards-linked





-  Home Connection: Winter Weather Planning. (all languages)
-  Home Connection: Severe Weather Evacuation and Those with Special Needs

Chemistry, Biology Earth Systems

-  In “Chemistry of the Fire Triangle” students are introduced to the Fire Triangle and concepts like combustion, oxidation and exothermic. (Middle School)
 -  In “Fire Extinguisher” students are introduced to the different types of fire extinguishers, how to use them, when to use them and how they are maintained. (High School)
-  In-class Experiment; Internet-linked Lessons; National standards-linked

-  Home Connection: Smoke Alarm Checklist (all languages)
-  Home Connection: Home Fire Hazards Checklist (all languages)

Physical Science

-  In “Watch Out - It’s Hot” students use observational skills in their introduction to Fire Danger. (Kindergarten)
 -  In “Facts About Fires: How Does Fire Work” students lean about the science of fire. (Elem., 5th)
 -  In “Smoke Alarms” students are introduced to the two types of smoke alarms, how to use and maintain them. (Middle School)
-  In-class Experiment, National standards-linked

-  Home Connection: Smoke Alarm Checklist (all languages)
-  Home Connection: Home Fire Hazards Checklist (all languages)

Language Arts

- 👉 In “Emergency Leadership Training” lesson utilizes Leadership Training techniques to instruct students on assisting their school in emergency planning. (High School)
- 👉 In “Outdoor Fire Safety” students learn about the deadly dangers of playing with fire and fireworks, how to use fire safely and to prevent wildfires. (High School)
- 👉 In “What to do in Case of a Fire” students are introduced to the basics of fire safety. (Elem., 1st)

👉 College Prep, Career Prep Skills

- 🏠 Home Connection: Creating a Family Contact Plan (all languages)
- 🏠 Home Connection: Home Outdoor Fire Hazards Checklist.

Listening and Speaking

- 👉 In “What is Fire and Stop, Drop and Roll” SDR proves it can still saves lives as students learn how the basic technique and when to use it. (Elem., 3rd)
- 👉 In “Keeping Safe” students use their writing skills to learn the basics of preparing for emergencies at home including fire evacuation. (Elem., 5th)
- 👉 In “Fire: Helpful or Harmful” students learn that all fire isn’t bad and how to recognize when it’s unsafe. (Elem., 2nd)

👉 Media-linked Lesson, Student projects

- 🏠 Home Connection: Creating Family Contact Cards (all languages)
- 🏠 Home Connection: Home Fire Hazards Checklist (all languages)

Mathematics: Geometry, Accounting

- 👉 In “Big Winds” students learn that in California, the Santa Ana are a season of their own; and understand how the wind affects the weather. (Elem., 4th)
- 👉 In “Escape Routes: Escape” students lean about the importance of two ways out. (Elem., 4th)
- 👉 In “I’m Going to a Cabin” students learn about outdoor fire safety and other outdoor hazards. (Elem. 3rd)
- 👉 In “High Cost of Disasters” students get a realistic overview of the financial and human toll of careless fires, and their individual role in community preparedness is defined. (High School)

👉 In-class Seminar, Student projects, College Prep Essay Writing

- 🏠 Home Connection: Reverse Evacuation drills (all languages)
- 🏠 Home Connection: Home Escape Route Planning (all languages)

Social Studies

- 👉 In “Getting the Hang of Philanthropy” students learn to cope with the preponderance of International Disaster news coverage by learning the ins and outs of giving back. (Elem., 3)
- 👉 In “Who Does What When” students explore future careers of interest and volunteer opportunities that can help get them there. (High School)

☞ In “Youth Firesetting and Violence: Teens Speak Out” students learn about the underlying social and emotional influences of youth firesetting and some coping mechanism to share with their peers. (High School)

🔥 Award-Winning Lesson plans, College Prep, Service Learning lessons

🏠 Home Connection: Creating Family Contact Plan (all languages)

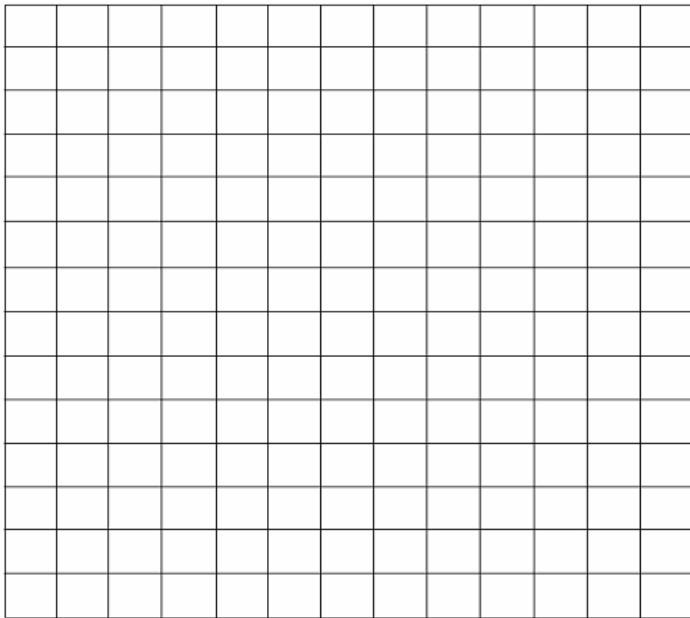
🏠 Community Connection: Create Materials for Awareness Campaign

Health

Most of Team SAFE-T’s lesson plans are linked to California and National Health Education Curriculum Standards.

Please log-on to start downloading materials now: www.teamsafe-t.org

**Stop, Drop, Crawl Low and Out:
There is no better way to escape a FIRE.**



**Escape Routes: TWO
Please!**

Use a larger grid like the sample presented here to draw a simple floor plan of your home, church or office building. Draw each floor using a separate grid.

ADD TWO COLOR CODED ESCAPE ROUTES from each room. Mark an outside meeting place with an X. If there isn’t enough space describe briefly in the margins where family will meet.

¹ Hill, K.G., Howell, J.C., Hawkins, J.D., and Battin, S.R. In press. Childhood risk factors for adolescent violence, firesetting: Results from the Seattle Social Development Project. University of Washington.

Step-by-Step Implementation

Name: _____

Class: _____

Period: _____



1 Date: _____

Review this guide for ideas and participation details and discuss the Team SAFE-T program with your staff and students.

2 Date: _____

Ask them to share their preparedness concerns, experiences and brainstorm ideas for in-class and community outreach projects that will form the foundation of your Action Plan.

3 Date: _____

Visit www.teamsafe-t.org and click on the "For Schools" link. Select the level - elementary, middle or high school - that is appropriate for your classroom and students. (Fill out your contact information, including your phone number and e-mail address. Please be sure to complete all fields. Team SAFE-T will never share your contact information with any third party.) Next, you'll be directed to the Team SAFE-T Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

4 Date: _____

Once you've accepted, you'll be able to select and print the classroom materials for the grade level you need. You'll also see an option to print classroom materials in Spanish and another option to download the Team SAFE-T take-home materials in a variety of other languages.

5 Date: _____

It's important to alert parents that their children will be learning emergency preparedness through the Team SAFE-T program. Use the template letters to alert parents about the program being taught at your school.

6 Date: _____

In addition to daily in-classroom lessons, Team SAFE-T also provides take-home materials that will help students and their families develop an emergency plan for their homes. These materials are available in multiple languages so parents and students can easily access pertinent skills and information.

7 Date: _____

Don't forget to send these materials home with students!!

8 Date: _____

Once you've completed the weeklong curriculum, complete the evaluation. Remember - the information you provide in your evaluation will help us continually improve the classroom materials to create an even better experience for future classrooms.