



## **HLTH106: Fire Safety in the Early Care and Education Environment Handout**

### **Welcome to HLTH106**

This course covers recommended best practices and minimum standards for fire safety in the early care and education (ECE) environment. Course participants will learn about the dangers of school fires, evacuation policies and procedures, practices for preventing and responding to fires, strategies for teaching young children the dangers of fire, and other fire safety issues.

### **Objectives:**

By taking notes on the handouts and successfully answering assessment questions, participants will meet the following objectives as a result of taking this course:

- Identify key facts and statistics regarding school fires
- Identify essential elements of a program evacuation policy and recommended procedures for conducting drills
- Define and identify recommended practices for common fire safety equipment and devices in the ECE environment
- Identify recommended standards for minimizing the risks of fire as a result of cooking, heating, electrical failure, and other potential causes in the ECE environment
- Identify effective practices, strategies, and curriculum activities for teaching young children about fire safety

### **References:**

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2. FEMA. (2014). "School Building Fires (2009-2011)." Retrieved from <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v14i14.pdf>
3. Freeman, N., Decker, C., and Decker, J. (2016). *Planning and Administering Early Childhood Programs, 11th edition*. Pearson.
4. General Services Administration. (2018). "Sample Child Care Evacuation Plan." Retrieved from <https://www.gsa.gov/resources-for/citizens-consumers/child-care/child-care-services/for-professionals-providers/emergency-management/sample-child-care-evacuation-plan>
5. Herr, J. (2020). *Working with Young Children, 9th edition*. Goodheart-Wilcox.
6. McClure, R. (2020). "Teaching Kids about Fire Safety." Retrieved from <https://www.verywellfamily.com/tips-for-teaching-kids-about-fire-safety-616822>
7. North Eastern Ohio Fire Prevention Association. (2016). "School Classroom Fire Safety." Retrieved from <https://neofpa.org/news/school-classroom-fire-safety/>
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10. Young, A. (2016). "Getting Serious about Fire Safety." Childcare Aware. Retrieved from <https://info.childcareaware.org/blog/getting-serious-about-fire-safety>

## School Fire Statistics

### How Many School Fires Are There?

Each year, fire departments respond to about \_\_\_\_\_ school fire incidents.

- \_\_\_\_\_ of those fires occurred at middle/high schools.
- \_\_\_\_\_ occurred at elementary schools.
- \_\_\_\_\_ occurred at child care centers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ occurred at other types of schools.

#### **Confined fires:**

#### **Nonconfined fires:**

### Common Causes of Fires in Schools

The top 3 causes of fires in child care centers are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The top 3 causes of fires in middle/high schools are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The top 3 causes of fires in elementary schools are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The top 3 causes of fires in other types of schools are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## Evacuation Policy and Procedures

## **1. Before the Drill or Emergency**

**Map it!**

**Learn it!**

## **2. When the Alarm Sounds**

***The sound of a fire alarm always means it is time to evacuate the building:***

**At the start of the evacuation process, a designated staff member secures the following:**

***Staff members should not:***

### 3. Evacuate to Assigned Assembly Area

***"Calm and orderly"***

#### **Attendance**

#### **Assembly Area Policies and Procedures**

#### **A Word about Families:**

**Experts Recommend \_\_\_\_\_ Drills for ECE**

#### **Everyday Safety**

The director or a designated ***safety coordinator*** should inspect the following every morning:

## **Family Volunteers and Substitute Teachers**

## **Infants and Other Non-Ambulatory Children**

***In the infant-care environment:***

***Support staff:***

## **Basic Fire Safety Standards for Facilities and Classrooms**

### **Emergency Exits, Alarms, and Other Resources**

***Exit doors***

***Closet doors***

***Bathroom doors***

***Pull stations:***

## **What about False Alarms?**

***When the fire alarm or smoke alarm is triggered:***

***Emergency lighting:***

***Lighted exit signs:***

## **Walls, Storage, Furnishings, and Window Treatments**

**Noncombustible materials or fire-resistive construction should be used:**

***Automatic sprinklers:***

***Fire extinguishers:***

***Maintain good housekeeping standard:***

\_\_\_\_\_ ***% of wall space should be covered in paper.***

***Storage units:***

***Window treatments:***

## Heating and Electrical Safety

***Furnace, ducts, and chimneys:***

***Kerosene heaters or other portable heaters:***

***Clothes dryers:***

***Overloaded extension cords:***

***Circuit breakers:***

***Outlet covers:***

## Cooking Safety

***Never leave anything unattended on the stove or in the oven!*** Items that can and often do catch fire in the vicinity of a stove include:

- 
- 
- 
- 

## Important Fact

***Never throw:***

**Flame Retardants and Children's Toys and Accessories**

**Fire Safety Curriculum**

**Children and the Appeal of Fire**

**Basic Fire Safety Curriculum**



## **General Fire Safety Tips for the ECE Environment**

### **Response to Arson**

### **"Stop Drop and Roll"**

## **Educational Supports for Specific Age Groups**

### **Infants**

### **Toddlers**

### **Preschoolers**

## Try This!

### Children's Fire Drill Journals

Caregivers and directors keep fire drill logs, and children can, too. Reinforce important concepts using fire drill journals with stories and pictures about where they go and what they do during drills. Make an entry after every drill. This is also an opportunity for children to express their feelings and understanding of the issue, including any fears or misconceptions they may have.

### Beyond Preschool

## Try This!

### NFPA Resources

The [National Fire Protection Association website](#) provides helpful resources for ECE professionals, families, and administrators. This includes activity sheets and lesson plans for the ECE environment, safety sheets and tips for programs, and resources to share with families to promote home safety.

Click on any of these links to access free resources:

- [Teaching Tools](#)
- [Public Education](#)
- [Sparky the Fire Dog](#)
- [Safety Tip Sheets](#)