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| **Presentation Title:**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  | |  |  | | **Bonfire and Firework Safety** |
| **Level:** | **Secondary School Years** |

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| Lesson Aim: | |  | | --- | | By the end of the session students will know how to act safely and sensibly around fireworks and bonfires, be aware of the firework code and understand why SFRS recommend attending an organised fireworks / bonfire display. Understand impact of misuse of fireworks (people/animals) and why it is better to attend an organised local display where possible. | |
| Version no. | 3 |
| Duration: | 40 mins (1 period) |
| Review date: | June 2022 |
| Resources: | |  | | --- | | PC/laptop; projector; screen or blank wall if using accompanying PowerPoint slides. | |
| Pre Planning: | |  | | --- | | Discuss the content of the presentation with the class teacher.  Check the organised events on SFRS website and inform the class of such events whilst visiting. | |

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| Slide 1 | Introduce yourself, where you work, what your role is and why you are there?  Learning Objectives   * How to act safely and sensibly around fireworks and bonfires * How to become aware of the fire work code * Understand why it is better to attend an organised local display if possible. * Understand impact of misuse of fireworks (people/animals) and why it is better to attend an organised local display where possible.   Highlight that 2021 there may not be any organised events near them, events may be limited or cancelled. |
| Slide 2 | Unsupervised bonfires put an additional strain on SFRS. 2020 – This year due to the current situation with Covid-19 events maybe limited or cancelled. It is therefore important to make sure if you have to have a bonfire that you, and those with you, are safe.  **ASK**  If your parent/guardian is having a bonfire what should they consider?    **ANSWER**   * One person should be responsible for the bonfire * Check the bonfire for animals before it is set alight i.e. hedgehogs * Children should be supervised always * Keep a safe distance away from lit bonfires * Never throw fireworks or aerosols into bonfires * Keep a bucket of water handy in case of an accident * Avoid loose clothing and tie back long hair * At the end of the night, ensure that the fire is properly extinguished rather than leaving it to burn out.     **ASK**  What is a safe Bonfire?    **ANSWER**   The following criteria in considering if the bonfire is safe:  • It is positioned more than 18m from buildings  • It is less than 2.5 m in height  • It is positioned away from overhead cables  • There are no ‘secondary hazards’ within it (particularly gas cylinders/aerosols)  • The bonfire is being supervised by a responsible adult  Ensuring that the bonfire is safe reduces the risk of having to call on SFRS to extinguish the fire.    **Reinforce that SFRS recommend everyone to attend an organised event.** You can find your nearest one on the SFRS website. This may not be the case for 2021 due COVID19. |
| Slide 3 | Discuss the firework code. Follow these simple guidelines to stay safe:  Only adults should deal with setting up firework displays, the lighting of fireworks and the safe disposal of fireworks once they have been used (and remember, alcohol and fireworks don't mix!). Children and young people should be supervised, and watch and enjoy fireworks at a safe distance. Follow these top 10 tips for a safer fireworks party:   1. Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable, and ensure it finishes before 11pm 2. Only buy fireworks which carry the CE mark, keep them in a closed box and use them one at a time 3. Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary 4. Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back 5. Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks 6. Never return to a firework once it has been lit 7. Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them 8. Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators 9. Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire 10. Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.   In addition make ensure you also carry out the following.   * Dispose of firework packaging responsibly * Don’t use Chinese lanterns * Ensure all animals are in a safe place and neighbours with animals have been warned in advance   **ASK**  Why do fireworks come in different shapes and sizes and are attractive to look at?  **ANSWER**:  This is a marketing technique as it makes them look exciting and fun. It is one of the ways that the firework manufacturers can sell these fireworks to the parents or guardians of the pupils and the public  **ASK**  Why should Fireworks not be kept in your pocket?  **ANSWER**  The friction could cause the firework to go off, causing serious injury and permanent damage.   |  | | --- | |  | |
| Slide 4 | Discuss how unofficial bonfires place a huge strain on fire and rescue resources and that they should help the fire service on bonfire night by attending an official display. Remind everyone that 2021 events may be limited or cancelled. |
| Slide 5 | Read as per slide. New regulations have been introduced to reduce harm |
| Slide 6 | Discuss what the implications could be for the Fire Service, communities and themselves if an unintended outcome occurred.  Discuss that if SFRS are mobilised to bonfires that have spread, due to bad planning, or hoax calls, this puts a strain on resources that may be required elsewhere.  Highlight that it is not just hoax calls that put extra strain on SFRS but badly planned and positioned bonfires can lead to fire spread, which could have been avoided if precautions had been taken.  You may also want to discuss some of the topics below or ask the class if they are True/False    It is an offence:  To set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am (or after midnight on bonfire night).  To modify, tamper with or misuse fireworks.  To throw or set off fireworks in any highway, street, thoroughfare or public place.  To sell fireworks to anyone under 18.  For anyone under 18 to possess fireworks in a public place.  For anyone other than a firework professional to possess display category fireworks.  To cause unnecessary suffering to any domestic or captive animals.    Explain the following:  Hoax calls cost are approximately £2000 every time an appliance is mobilised whether this is to a real incident or a malicious one, it also reduces available resources from that area.  Discuss the cost, not only in terms of monetary value but the potential cost in life due to resources being deployed maliciously when there could be an incident with a savable life. |
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| Slide 7 | **Hoax Calls Cost Lives**  **Discuss** the details on the slide.  **Explain and Discuss**  The SFRS could be delayed in attending a real emergency if they are called out to a false alarm. It could be someone you know who is in danger! This is extremely serious as they may not be able to attend fire calls such as:   * House Fires * Road Traffic Collisions * Chemical Incidents   The outcome could end in serious injury or even death for the people or families involved  **Explain** that it is a serious offence to make a hoax call. It may lead to criminal proceedings being brought against any person charged with making a hoax call to the Emergency Services and they can be taken to court.  The penalties can be:   * 3 months imprisonment or * £2,500 fine * Or both |
| Slide 8 | Video showing the consequences of throwing an aerosol onto a bonfire. |
| Slide 9 | **Ask**  How hot can sparklers get?  **Answer**  Sparklers can burn up to temperatures of 1500 degrees (5 times hotter than a BBQ) with fireworks reaching temperatures even hotter. These can cause a wide range of injuries including superficial and life altering injuries.  **ASK**  How old would you be before the burns go away?  **Answer**  It will never fully go away  **ASK**  What should you wear when you're holding a sparkler?  **Answer**  Gloves  **The x-ray picture shows the damage that can be caused to a hand/fingers if a firework goes off in a person’s hand.**  Remind everyone that fireworks are simply colourful explosives. If they are used incorrectly they can have life changing results, like losing fingers.  Discuss how unofficial bonfires place a huge strain on fire and rescue resources and that they should help the fire service on bonfire night by attending an official display. Remind everyone that 2021 events may be limited or cancelled. |
| Slide 10 | **Credit: Scottish SPCA re images**  **Bottom left (Cat)**  **A cat is recovering after an attack in which fireworks were taped to its side and set off.**  The animal was found on Sunday morning suffering from substantial burns to its side and covered in masking tape.  The Scottish SPCA said the incident, in Drylaw, Edinburgh, had "shocked and horrified" animal welfare workers.  Police described the attack as a "horrific and deliberate act of cruelty" and appealed for witnesses to come forward.  The cat was found by a member of the public near Royston Mains Road.  The young, male cat was rushed to an emergency veterinary clinic for immediate medical treatment.  Christina Harkness, the vet who cared for the cat, said: "We are very pleased that he has survived this ordeal, as the attack could have quite easily killed him.  "I am disgusted that somebody tried to gain some pleasure from attacking a cat in this horrendous way.“  Spokeswoman for the Scottish SPCA, said attacks of this sort happen every year in the run up to bonfire night.  This attack was brutal and unprovoked," she said. "The people responsible for this despicable act need to be caught as they may be a danger to other animals, or even to other people."  The attack happened between 2100 BST on Saturday and 0830 GMT on Sunday morning.  A Lothian and Borders Police spokeswoman appealed for the cat's owner to come forward.  She said: "Fireworks in the wrong hands are dangerous, but in this case, could have been fatal for both the animal involved, and those who were abusing them."  This incident comes a year after a cat was attacked with fireworks and thrown onto a bonfire in Hamilton.  **Top right and bottom right Cat called Fanta**  We rescued Fanta when he was found burned and extremely frightened in Kirkcaldy.  The one year old ginger and white tom cat was discovered by a member of the public with severe burns to his face and body.  He received emergency veterinary care at our rehoming centre near Edinburgh, where we called him Fanta.  Chief Inspector John Chisholm said, "Fanta received severe burns to his ears and face and he was also badly singed over most of his coat. "We believe he was scorched by a blast of searing heat, possibly from an ignited aerosol or something similar such as a firework.  "This was a horrendous thing to do to an animal. Unfortunately, we didn't receive the information we needed to identify the person responsible.  "Thankfully Fanta's injuries healed well in our care and he made a good recovery over time. The difference in him was amazing.  "After all of the trauma he went through, we were very happy when Fanta found a new home where he'll be loved and cared for the way he deserves."    **Hamster:**  **An animal welfare charity has expressed disappointment after a man who taped a hamster to a firework was sentenced to 220 hours community service.**  The Scottish SPCA said Steven Gordon, 20, from Glasgow, had subjected the animal to a terrible death.  Gordon was convicted of animal cruelty after trial at Glasgow Sheriff Court.  A Scottish SPCA spokeswoman said: "We were disappointed to hear that the sentence awarded in this case did not involve a custodial element."  Mobile phone footage showed the hamster being taped to a rocket which was then stuck in the ground and lit in Possilpark.  Sheriff Gillian Bryson sentenced Gordon to 220 hours community service.  The Scottish SPCA suggested the Scottish courts should follow the lead of some American states where psychiatric assessments are carried out anyone guilty of animal cruelty.  A spokeswoman added: "Significant research indicates that this level of violence to animals can often progress as teenagers get older.“  **Impact on dogs (Top right)**   * Behaviours such as avoidance (eg. hiding away, not eating and agitation) and overt behaviours (eg. barking, spinning, tail-chewing) that occur as dogs try to cope with the perceived threat. * Dogs exhibiting a strong ‘flight response’, - may injure themselves or others. * Damage to furnishings and carpets as dogs may try to chew or dig their way out of rooms when shut in to get   away from the noise.   * These behaviours can be extremely challenging for owners to address because fireworks remain out of their   control and therefore they are unable to remove the triggers for their dog’s fearful behaviour.  **Impact on other animals – please refer to Scottish SPCA / BVA Handout** |
| Slide 11 | \*Only use this slide if this is an issue in your area.\*  Discuss the consequences for the firefighter, SFRS, general public and what it means for an individual if they are caught.  Firefighters are protected by the Emergency Workers (Scotland) Act 2005. |
| Slide 11 | If you know or suspect anything about fires that have been started deliberately in your area or who is responsible for fireworks misuse, you can be fearless in speaking up 100% anonymously at fearless.org  They can’t track your IP address or any contact details. Simply tell then what you know NOT who you are.  [www.fearless.org](http://www.fearless.org/)  Finish off the presentation with a recap of the key messages and give the class the opportunity to ask any questions. |

