

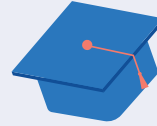
FireSmart™ BC Education Program

 **BRITISH COLUMBIA**
FireSmart™ (Grades 4–6)



Lesson Three

Students will explore a variety of actions that can increase fire safety around their homes and then select three helpful habits to encourage their families to share the responsibility for wildfire safety and prevention.



Lesson Question:

What helpful habits could improve wildfire safety and prevention?

Lesson Challenge:

Select three helpful habits that Ember would encourage to help families share the responsibility for wildfire safety and prevention.

Big Ideas

- Developing our understanding of how language works allows us to use it purposefully. (Grade 6 Language Arts)
- Exploring and sharing multiple perspectives extends our thinking. (Grade 6 Language Arts)
- Safe environments depend on everyone following safety rules. (Grade 6 Career Education)

Suggested Materials

- **Briefing Sheet A: Did You Know?** (one for each pair or small group of students)
- **Activity Sheet A: Suggesting Helpful Wildfire Safety Habits** (one for each pair or small group of students)



Start the Thinking



1. Ask students to think about how to best define habit. After allowing one minute of personal thinking time, invite students to share their initial ideas.
2. Have students work with a partner to create a list of as many daily habits as they can in two minutes. Ask pairs to share their thinking with another pair of students and then with the class. Note students' ideas on the board or chart paper.
3. Prompt students to suggest what the ideas in the list have in common. As students share, invite them to use the ideas to refine their definitions. Present or co-construct a definition of habit. A habit is an action that is repeated regularly.
4. On the board or chart paper, place the headings "Helpful Habits" and "Not Helpful Habits." Invite students to sort and place each of the ideas from their list of habits under the appropriate heading. If there are any habits the students are uncertain of, place them off to the side.
5. Ask students how they decided whether a habit was helpful or not helpful. Use a sentence starter such as "A habit is helpful if ..." to prompt students to think of criteria for a helpful habit. A helpful habit can:
 - help us achieve a goal or complete important actions.
 - keep us, other people, and the land safe.
 - improve our quality of life.
6. Remind students that preventing and staying safe from wildfires requires more than designing FireSmart surroundings or developing a safety plan. It also requires everyone to share responsibility for wildfire safety and prevention by developing helpful habits.
7. Inform students that their challenge is to identify three habits that can help reduce or prevent wildfires. Invite them to suggest some of these habits.

Grow the Thinking



1. Organize students into pairs or small groups, and provide each group with Did You Know? (Briefing Sheet A) and Suggesting Helpful Wildfire Safety Habits (Activity Sheet A).
2. Invite groups to use the ideas from the briefing sheet to help them think of habits that might help reduce or prevent wildfires. Prompt groups to note their ideas in the right-hand column of the activity sheet. Remind them to use the criteria to guide their thinking.

Reflect on the Thinking



1. Once groups have completed their charts, invite all students to walk around the room to see what habits other groups thought of. Encourage students to share their thinking with each other as they walk about.
2. Inform students that they are to select the three most helpful habits that Ember would encourage their family to use to improve wildfire safety and prevention. The three habits can come from the chart they created and from the charts of others.
3. If desired, students could create illustrations of Ember showing or describing the three helpful habits related to wildfire safety and prevention.



Briefing Sheet A: Did You Know?



Did you know that reducing clutter can help to reduce fire hazards?

- Clutter allows fires to spread faster.
- Making sure things are put in their place helps keep things that can burn away from open flames.
- Keeping areas such as garages and yards free of clutter allows for a faster response if a fire does break out, such as being able to easily get to a water hose or fire extinguisher.

Did you know that knowing how and where to store flammable products can help to reduce fire hazards?

- Some products such as gasoline, paint, and oils are flammable and can easily catch fire if placed near an open flame.
- Flammable products should always be stored away from open flames to make sure they are not accidentally ignited.
- Flammable products should always be kept in proper containers that can be sealed to prevent leaks.
- Containers should be properly labelled so it is clear what is in the container.

Briefing Sheet A: Did You Know?

Did you know that cleaning up debris from a yard can help to reduce fire hazards?

- Part of nature's cycle is for leaves and dead branches to fall from trees to the ground and for woody shrubs to die off over time.
- Leaves, dead branches, and dead shrubs can quickly and easily catch fire and help wildfires to spread.
- Making sure any dead leaves, branches, or shrubs are cleaned up around your yard can help prevent wildfires from damaging your home and property or other homes and property nearby.

Did you know that proper disposal of hot coals can help to reduce fire hazards?

- Campfires and barbecues leave hot coals that must be properly extinguished.
- Even when it seems like a fire has gone out, the coals might still be hot and even red-hot inside.
- If hot coals contact items that can catch fire, such as debris, paper, clothes, or cardboard, these can easily cause fire to spread to our homes and property.

Briefing Sheet A: Did You Know?

- After a barbeque or campfire, it is important to extinguish the coals. Water should be poured over the coals. The coals should then be stirred to make sure everything gets wet.
- After a campfire or a barbeque, before you leave, always check to make sure no smoke or red coals remain. If the coals are too hot to touch, they are too hot to leave unattended.

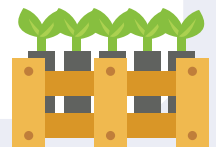
Did you know that green lawns can help to reduce fire hazards?



- There can be long stretches of hot and dry weather in summer. This can cause lawns to become brown.
- When the grass turns brown, it means it is very dry and very flammable. When this happens, lawns can spread wildfires more easily.
- Allowing grass to stay at least 5 centimetres tall and watering lawns every other day during hot and dry spells helps to keep lawns green and healthy.
- Healthy lawns are less likely to catch fire. They can act as a barrier to wildfires, helping keep our homes and property safe.

Activity Sheet A: Suggesting Helpful Wildfire Safety Habits

Actions That Reduce Fire Hazards	What habits could help with this action?
Reducing clutter	
Properly storing flammable materials	
Removing debris from yards	
Properly disposing of hot coals	
Keeping lawns green and healthy	



Activity Sheet A: Suggesting Helpful Wildfire Safety Habits

A helpful habit can:

- ✓ help us achieve a goal or complete important actions.
- ✓ keep us, other people, and the land safe.
- ✓ improve our quality of life.



Which three habits would be the most helpful for improving wildfire safety and prevention?

1.

2.

3.