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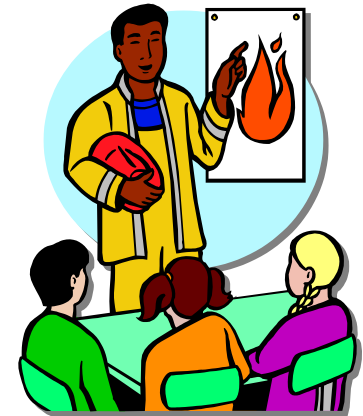
# WHEN I GROW UP... I WANT TO BE A FIREFIGHTER

AIMS MULTIMEDIA

2000

Grade Levels: 1-4

14 minutes



## DESCRIPTION

What do firefighters do? Where do they live? How do they become firefighters? How do they help the community? Elementary students learn about this important community member when they spend a day at the fire station.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

### Subject Area: History

- Standard: Understands how democratic values came to be, and how they have been exemplified by people, events, and symbols
  - Benchmark: Knows how different groups of people in the community have taken responsibility for the common good (e.g., the police department, the fire department, senior citizen home, soup kitchen)

### Subject Area: Health

- Standard: Knows essential concepts and practices concerning injury prevention and safety
  - Benchmark: Knows basic fire, traffic, water, and recreation safety practices

## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To identify several skills a person needs to become a firefighter.
2. To provide examples of some skills they are learning in school that firefighters use in their jobs everyday.
3. To explain why it's dangerous to play with fire.
4. To identify the Fire Triangle.
5. To define *teamwork*.
6. To describe why communication skills are so important to a firefighter.
7. To demonstrate what you should do if you're caught in fire.
8. To illustrate why it's important for firefighters to eat right and get a lot of exercise.
9. To list examples of what they can do now to start preparing for a career as a firefighter.

## BEFORE SHOWING

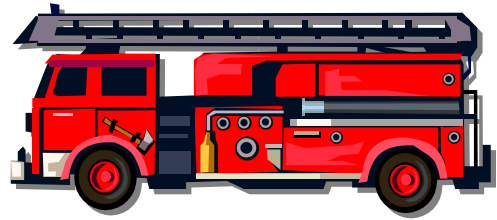
1. Ask the class to show, with a raise of hands, who has ever seen firefighters around the community. How do we know who they are? What do they wear? What do they drive? Where do they work? And for whom do they work?
2. Ask the students what skills a firefighter might need to fight fires and to help people in the community stay safe. Should they be strong in order to handle a water hose, climb ladders,

and help people get away from fires? Should they know a lot about science? How might science help a firefighter? How about math?

## AFTER SHOWING

### Discussion Items and Questions

1. What are some skills you are learning in school that firefighters use on the job everyday?
2. Why are communication skills so important?
3. Give examples of how firefighters use reading, writing, math, and science skills on the job.
4. It's important for firefighters to always be prepared for emergency situations. What ways is it important for you to be prepared for school?
5. What is *teamwork*?
6. What are some examples of firefighters using teamwork in their jobs? What about teamwork in your classroom?
7. How is fire helpful and how is it dangerous?
8. What three things make up the Fire Triangle?
9. What are some things you can do right now to start preparing to become a firefighter?
10. What should you do if you're caught in a fire?



### Applications and Activities

1. Arrange a field trip to your community Fire Department. Call the Fire Department and ask to speak with the fire chief for details.
2. Invite a firefighter to come to the classroom and share his or her experiences. Ask him or her to emphasize what he or she studied in school, and how doing well in subjects like math, science, and reading affects his or her daily job duties.
3. Assign students to hold family meetings and plan what to do in case of a fire in their homes. Examples can include:
  - a. Make a map of an escape route.
  - b. Be sure to know two ways out of each room.
  - c. Be sure to have an outside meeting place.
  - d. Have a regular home drill, just like you would have at school and practice it.
  - e. Include the locations of your smoke detectors in your map and be sure to check them regularly.

## SUMMARY

This video explores the careers of firefighters beyond the usual association of big red trucks, flashing lights, and loud sirens that students usually have. Through narration, interviews, and dramatization, students get an inside look at the careers of firefighters and quickly find out that putting out fires is only part of a firefighter's job description.

Begins with a brief introduction to the good uses of fire—when used by adults—as well as the dangers. Firefighters then discuss why they became firefighters, the pride they feel in working for the community, and the importance of trying your hardest and always being prepared.

By spending a day at the fire department, four students experience first-hand what skills and knowledge are necessary to become a firefighter. The firefighters show and tell them about the science of fire; the science, math, and reading skills involved in operating different equipment; the importance of reading the latest information available about fire safety; and

why it's necessary to write down what happens in every emergency situation. Throughout the video, firefighters also talk about teamwork, fire safety, and the importance of good eating habits and exercise.

At the end of the video, the students get a chance to show off what they learned by going through a testing process similar to what a real firefighter candidate would experience. Followed by an agility test, the future candidates take a written exam, then an oral exam stressing the importance of good communication skills. By the end of the day, all four students find out if they have a good head start to becoming firefighters when they grow up!

## RELATED RESOURCES



### Captioned Media Program

- A Community at Work #8682
- Fire Drill! #1969
- Kids in the Firehall #3485



### World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **FIREFIGHTER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

[http://www.firehire.com/duties\\_responsibilities.htm](http://www.firehire.com/duties_responsibilities.htm)

As a member of the fire service, you are required to learn and perform the following: fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical services, and more. Explains the job description of each service all firefighters must know and perform.

- **USFA'S KIDS PAGE**

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/kids/>

The United States Fire Administration site explains how to prevent fires. Click on one of the icons for an explanation of smoke alarms, home fire safety, become a junior fire marshal, and other facts.

- **TEST OF COURAGE**

<http://www.pbs.org/testofcourage/>

Follow a group of dedicated young men and women from diverse backgrounds pursuing their quest to become firefighters. Take the test to see if you qualify to become a firefighter. A PBS site.

- **FIREPALS KID SAFETY NET**

<http://www.firepals.org/ksn/tips.htm>

Provides fire safety tips, take the fire safety quiz. Has a button for parents and teachers.

- **FIRE CALL**

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/firecall/>

Listen and read captions from a wildlife firefighter's experience in fighting such fires and why he does it. Contains links to other sites, such as Yellowstone Fires, Daily Fire Report, and more. A National Geographic site.

