

Glossary

American Red Cross: a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement; provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies; part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

ax: a cutting tool firefighters can use to help them get into burning buildings; they can also use it in a burning building to open spaces to let out heat, to break up fuel, and to clear paths

bad fire: fire that might hurt people or damage or destroy property

battery: holds a small electrical charge inside it that gives a current, or energy, to make something work; used in many smoke alarms

boots: heavy shoes made to protect a firefighter's feet and legs

burning: on fire; something that is burning can be flaming or smoldering

combustion: when fuel and oxygen get hot and burn

control: regulate; be able to direct or command

emergency: when something unexpected happens and you have to act quickly

equipment: special tools needed to do a job

escape plan: plan for getting out of your home or school in an emergency; you practice the escape plan to be ready if there is a fire or other emergency

escape route: fastest, safest way to leave or get away from danger

evacuation: leaving an unsafe place to go to a safer place

evacuation drill: a time to practice leaving an unsafe place to go to a safer place

exit: a way out

fear: the feeling of being afraid

feelings: the way you feel

fire: burning; the heat, light, and sometimes flames that are made when fuel, heat, and oxygen combine and combust

fire alarm: a loud bell or siren; when the fire alarm goes off, you should get out of the building

fire behavior: the way fire acts



fire drill: practice to help you learn how to get out of a building quickly in case of a fire; same thing as an evacuation drill

fire extinguisher: a tool with chemicals or water inside that can be sprayed on a fire to put the fire out; fire extinguishers should be used only by adults who have been trained to use them

fire safety: steps you take to keep bad fires from happening; steps you take to stay safe if a bad fire happens

fire triangle: the three things needed to make a fire—fuel, heat, and oxygen

firefighter: a man or a woman who puts out fires and saves lives and property

flames: burning gas or vapors that give off light and heat

fuel: one part of the fire triangle; material used to make heat or power; anything that can burn

fumes: smoke, gas, vapors

good fire: fire that helps people and does not hurt them, for example, fire for cooking

harmful: hurtful; able to cause damage to things and hurt people

heat: one part of the fire triangle; the feeling of being hot or warm

heat source: the place or thing that heat comes from

helmet: what a firefighter wears on his or her head to protect it from things that are falling and burning during a fire

helpful: useful

hose: a long tube with a nozzle used by firefighters to get water onto a fire; water helps to cool off a fire and break the fire triangle

ladder: a tool that firefighters bring to a fire so they can climb to reach upper floors to rescue people and fight the fire

loss: something or someone you once had but is now gone

mask: fits onto a helmet and covers a firefighter's face and eyes; helps a firefighter breathe without taking in smoke, fumes, or poisonous gases

9-1-1: telephone number to call in an emergency (Note: for most communities in the United States, 9-1-1 is the local emergency services number, but some communities use a different number. Everyone should know the correct number to dial in an emergency, wherever they are.)



operator: the person who answers the phone when you call 9-1-1; someone at the telephone company who can connect your call to emergency services providers

outdoor meeting place: the place right outside your home where you and all the members of your family know to meet in case you have to evacuate; the place outside your school building where you and the other members of your class know to gather with your teacher in case you have to evacuate

oxygen: one part of the fire triangle; a gas you cannot see or smell that is everywhere in the air

plan: steps of what to do in an emergency; a picture that shows how things are arranged

poisonous gases: harmful gases released during combustion

preparing: deciding and practicing what to do or how to act in an emergency before it happens; making a plan

prevention: keeping something from happening

procedures: rules; what to do or how to act the right way

Red Cross worker: someone who works for the Red Cross; can be either a volunteer worker or a paid worker

response: what to do or how to act to protect yourself from injury and to protect your property from damage

rules: directions about what to do

school counselor: a school employee who listens to and advises students about personal matters

shelter: a place that gives protection

smoke: substance that escapes from something burning and floats in the air, made visible by small particles; sometimes a signal that there is fire

smoke alarm: a tool that sounds an alarm when there is smoke

“stop, drop, and roll”: what you should do if your clothes catch on fire—stop moving, drop to the ground, roll over and over to smother the fire

testing: checking to see if something works, for example, testing a smoke alarm

turnout (bunker) coat and pants: special clothes firefighters wear to protect them in a fire; bunker gear

“two ways out”: two possible escape routes—your first choice and one to use in case the first choice is blocked

worry: to think bad things might happen

