



Fire Safety

Scouts BSA · Health & Safety

Name

Started

Completed

Fire Safety is about understanding how fire works so you can prevent it and know what to do when it happens. You'll practice real skills, check your home, and learn how firefighters protect communities. These are skills that can truly save lives.

Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off (scouting.org/merit-badges/fire-safety/). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

1 Fire science and hazards

Tips for this section: Draw the fire tetrahedron and label each side. Think about how removing any one piece puts a fire out.

Example for this section: Draw the fire tetrahedron with fuel, heat, oxygen, and the chain reaction on each face. Then explain how each firefighting method removes one: water cools the heat, a fire blanket cuts off oxygen, and clearing brush removes fuel.

- ☐ **1a** Explain what fire is

- ☐ **1b** Name the four parts of the fire tetrahedron and what burning produces

- ☐ **1c** Describe how a fire grows and dies through its life cycle

- ☐ **1d** Explain the three ways heat is transferred

2 Fire extinguishers

Tips for this section: Learn the classes of fire and which extinguisher works on each. Practice using an extinguisher only with a trained adult or firefighter.

Example for this section: Explain the classes with examples: A (wood, paper, cloth), B (gasoline, oil, paint thinner), C (energized electrical equipment), D (burning metals), K (cooking oil and grease). Then practice PASS with a trained adult: Pull the pin, Aim at the base, Squeeze, Sweep.

- ☐ **2a** Explain the classes of fire

- ☐ **2b** Identify the classes of fire extinguishers and which one to use on each class of fire

- ☐ **2c** Demonstrate using both a fire blanket and a fire extinguisher

3 Fire-related injuries

Tips for this section: Practice stop, drop, roll, cool, and call until it's automatic, and teach it to a younger sibling.

- ☐ **3a** Explain and show stop, drop, roll, cool, and call

- ☐ **3b** Describe how clothes catch fire, how to prevent it, and how clothing can either protect you from burns or make them worse

- ☐ **3c** Name the most common causes of burns and how to prevent them

- ☐ **3d** Go over how to prevent, recognize, and treat airway burns and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning

4 Where fires come from

Tips for this section: Ask a firefighter how investigators figure out where a fire started and why arson is so serious.

- ☐ **4a** Explain the four ways a fire's origin is classified (natural, accidental, incendiary, or undetermined), with an example of each

- ☐ **4b** Describe how a fire ruled incendiary could lead to someone being prosecuted for arson

5 Fire safety at home

Tips for this section: Go through the checklist with your family, testing smoke alarms and looking for hazards. Practice your escape plan.

Example for this section: Your checklist might find: a space heater too close to curtains, an extension cord running under a rug, a dryer lint trap that's packed full, and no fire extinguisher in the kitchen. Help your family fix at least one.

- ☐ **5a** Describe how to prevent common causes of home fires: cooking left unattended, electricity, smoking, clothes dryers, and rechargeable batteries

- ☐ **5b** Describe how to prevent seasonal and holiday home fires, including those from home heating, holiday trees, candles, and fireworks

- ☐ **5c** Show how to light and put out a candle safely. Talk about safe candle use with your counselor, then with your family

- ☐ **5d** With an adult's help, inspect a home (or a similar building nearby or at camp) for fire hazards using the pamphlet's Home Fire Safety Checklist or one your counselor approves. Go over the results with your counselor

- ☐ **5e** Find out whether your community requires smoke and CO alarms in homes, and which kinds. List the smoke and CO alarms in your home, where they are, and when they expire

- ☐ **5f** Show your counselor how to maintain smoke and CO alarms, and go over plans for replacing any that have expired

- ☐ **5g** With your family, make a plan for escaping a home fire and a schedule for fire drills. Draw a floor plan with exits marked and a map to your family meeting spot, then hold a fire drill at home

- ☐ **5h** Explain the dos and don'ts when you smell natural gas, and when you smell smoke

- ☐ **5i** Explain how you would report a fire to get the fire department to come

6 Flammable and combustible liquids

Tips for this section: Look at where gasoline, paint thinner, and similar liquids are stored in your home and talk with a parent about safer storage.

Example for this section: Explain safe handling: store gasoline only in approved containers in a detached shed or garage, never indoors near a water heater, never use it to start a fire, and take old solvents to a household hazardous waste drop-off.

- ☐ **6a** Explain which flammable and combustible liquids are common at home and how to store them safely

- ☐ **6b** Describe how to safely refuel an engine (for example a car, lawn mower, farm machine, or outboard motor) using fuel from an approved container

- ☐ **6c** Describe the ways your community offers to safely get rid of unwanted flammable, combustible, and hazardous substances

7 Fire safety in public buildings

Tips for this section: Next time you're at school or a store, notice the exit signs, sprinklers, and fire alarms. Think about why each is there.

- ☐ **7a** Explain how public buildings are designed with fire safety in mind

- ☐ **7b** Explain the fire safety systems and equipment found in public buildings

- ☐ **7c** Explain the fire safety steps you should take while inside a public building

8 Fire safety at camp

Tips for this section: On your next campout, help set up a safe fire area and show how to build, tend, and fully put out a fire.

Example for this section: At camp, show a safe fire site: clear a 10-foot circle, use an existing fire ring, keep water and a shovel nearby, build a small fire, and put it out by drowning, stirring, and feeling for heat until it's cold to the touch.

- ☐ **8a** Explain how the Outdoor Code and the Leave No Trace Seven Principles apply to campfires

- ☐ **8b** Show how to safely light a match, put it out, and dispose of it. Explain how safety matches and strike-anywhere matches are alike and different

- ☐ **8c** Explain and show how to make sparks with flint and steel or a ferro rod and catch one to make a flame. Put the flame out safely using one principle of the fire tetrahedron

- ☐ **8d** Show how to start a charcoal fire safely

- ☐ **8e** Describe three common fire lays. Gather and prepare tinder, kindling, and fuel and build a campfire following Leave No Trace and the Outdoor Code, then light it and put it out safely

- ☐ **8f** Show how to use a camp stove

- ☐ **8g** Explain how to set up a campsite and keep it safe from fire

- ☐ **8h** Plan a lesson that teaches a fire safety topic or skill, like lighting a match, candle, lantern, charcoal, or camp stove, using flint and steel, or building a fire lay. Review it with your counselor, then teach it to one or more Scouts using EDGE

9 Wildland fires

Tips for this section: Learn what causes wildfires where you live and what families and campers can do to prevent them.

Example for this section: Explain how wildfires start where you live, from lightning to dragging trailer chains to unattended campfires. Then describe defensible space around homes and how smoke affects health miles away.

- ☐ **9a** List what causes wildland fires and how to prevent them

- ☐ **9b** Explain how wildland fires affect people, the economy, and the environment

10 Careers: Choose 1 of 2

Tips for this section: Call your local fire station and ask if your patrol can visit. Bring questions about the job and training.

- ☐ **10a** Visit a fire station in person and identify the kinds of fire service vehicles. Learn from the firefighters about local fire prevention and their careers, then tell your counselor what you learned

- ☐ **10b** Name three careers that use fire safety skills. Research one: training, education, certification, experience, cost to get started, job outlook, starting pay, and advancement. Discuss it with your counselor and whether it interests you