

Steps to Success

LESSON PLAN FOR SCHOOL VISITS



Theme: Disaster Preparedness



Grade level: K-3

The goal is to increase awareness of students (from kindergarten to third grade) about building safety and disaster preparedness.

Objectives:

- The students will learn about natural disasters and how the codes can help to protect their families and communities.
- The students will recognize at home safety tips.

Time: 50 minutes

Lesson Plan Summary:

1. Introduce the code official and the building safety department and how they fit in with other public safety professionals.
2. Briefly explain building codes and how they help keep safe the places where we live, work and play.
3. Review emergency safety and natural disasters. Explain how building codes help protect us during a natural disaster.
4. Explain the importance of family emergency plans and safety kits.
5. Examine different safety kit items and discuss how they are used during an emergency.
6. Finish lesson with the following activities: Safety Search and Safety Kit Fun

Materials:

- Pictures or examples of a smoke detector, first aid kit, flashlight, batteries, radio, maps, etc.
- Fire safety [interactive poster](#)
- Inspector stickers (available for purchase)
- Building code (free access available in [ICC Digital Codes Library](#))
- *CODiE* the Code Official's Building Safety Activity Book (available for download)
- Building Codes and Code Officials Keep Us Safe coloring book (available for download)
- Building safety pencils (available for purchase)
- Building safety vest (available for purchase)
- Building safety hats (available for purchase)



Presented by



Lesson Outline:

- 1. Introduction** – Introduce yourself and the name of the department where you work. Discuss how the code official protects people by making sure their homes and buildings are safe. Talk about how the building department is similar to the police department and fire department because they all protect people. (5 minutes)
- 2. Introducing Building Codes** – Show students the building codes and explain that it gives directions and contains rules for everything from putting on a new roof to adding on a new room. The building codes are what architects, engineers, builders, construction workers (people who build houses and buildings) and even homeowners need to follow when they are building something in their house so it will be safe. (5 minutes)
- 3. Explaining Natural Disaster & Building Codes** – Review the types of natural disasters and explain how planning for disasters helps to increase the health and safety of communities worldwide. Mention that building to the most-up-to-date, modern building codes is one of the best ways for communities to prepare for disasters. (5 minutes)
- 4. Explaining Safety Kits and Emergency Plans** – Discuss making a family emergency plan and identify various items to put in a safety kit. Make sure students understand the importance of all family members knowing where the safety kit is within their homes. (5 minutes)

Emergency Supply Kit Items

- i. Battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- ii. Flashlight and extra batteries
- iii. Canned food
- iv. Hand operated can opener
- v. First aid kit and manual
- vi. Large garbage bags and plastic ties
- vii. Local maps
- viii. Portable container for important family documents
- ix. Fire extinguisher
- x. Blankets
- xi. Basic tools
- xii. Utility gloves

- 5. Materials Hands-On Activity** – Pass out safety kit items (a smoke detector, first aid kit, flashlight, batteries, radio, maps, etc.) to students. Ask if they know what each is and why it is important to have in a safety kit. (5 minutes)
- 6. Activity and Q&A Session** – Pass out the Safety Search and Safety Kit Fun activities for the students to complete. After completing the activity, reserve time for students to ask questions. (25 minutes)
- 7. Extension Activities** – If time allows, you might do one of the following activities, or they can be left with the teacher to do in the classroom or given as homework.
 - **Building Safety Treasure Hunt** – Break students into teams. Have each team go on a walking field trip of the school and find as many safety features in the building as they can, such as the exit signs, sprinklers, railings, etc. The students or the teacher can make a list of the items – or draw each of the items they find. Alternate – Use a picture checklist to check off items. (Grades K–3)
 - **Posters** – Students design their own Building Safety Month posters. (Grades K–3)
 - **Essay** – Students write an essay describing the importance of disaster preparedness. (Grades 2–3)
 - **Class Book** – Students write/illustrate a class book about the importance of disaster preparedness. (Grades K–3)

Optional:

- Distribute CODiE Activity Books.
- Distribute Building Safety Month Coloring Books.
- Distribute building safety inspector stickers and pencils.
- Using the information they learned today, invite the students to share and complete these activities with their parents.