

# Waterloo Fire Rescue Fire PALS Injury Prevention Program

## Firefighter Familiarization

### Grades Pre-K – 1

*To educate the student to not be afraid of a firefighter in full turn out gear.*

#### **Learning Objectives**

At the completion of this unit, 100 % of the students will be able to:

1. identify the fire gear a firefighter wears
2. identify the firefighter as the same person with SCBA gear on
3. describe why not to hide from a firefighter during a fire

#### **Time Element**

Knowledge/Attitude 10 minutes

Activity/Skill 10 minutes

#### **Preparing the students for the lesson**

Prior to teaching the first lesson, ask the teacher to read a couple of books about firefighters/ or leave the book Firefighters A to Z by Chris L. Demarest with the classroom teacher. The book Firefighters A to Z has some very good pictures of a firefighter in full turn out gear. Ask the teacher to spend a few minutes prior to your arrival explaining that you will be showing them the equipment and gear that you use for fighting fires and rescuing people.

#### **Introduction and Content: 10 minutes**

Firefighters are normal people from all walks of life. They come in all shapes and sizes just like you, your friends and your parents. However, to do their job, a firefighter has to wear special clothes. The clothes are made just for firefighters so they can help you in case of a fire in your house or apartment. Before showing gear, say something like, “I love to teach kids all about fires, firefighters, and fire safety. At any time, though, I can be called away to my main job: fighting fires and rescuing people who are trapped. One of the things I teach kids about is the equipment that firefighters use while putting out fires. Much of this equipment helps keep me safe when putting out fires. No matter what equipment I use, though, the most important thing to remember is that underneath all that gear, it’s still me.”

- I. Begin to put fire gear on. Explaining as you go what each part does.**
  - a. Do they know that firefighters need to wear special clothes to do their job?
  - b. Compare the fire gear to their winter clothes.
  - c. Firefighters clothes are made special to withstand the heat of a fire.
  - d. Firefighters also wear insulated gloves and hood.
  
- II. Show the students the SCBA.**
  - a. Explain what it is used for. When showing the SCBA gear, explain to the children that the mask protects your face and enable you to breath the air from your air pack. The helmet protects your head from falling debris and the bill of the helmet keeps water from going down the back of your coat. The coat, pants and gloves prevent steam and heat burns, just like oven mitts protect our hands when getting something hot out of the oven. The boots protect your feet from getting hurt or wet. A hood protects your ears, hair and neck from heat injuries.
  - b. Show the tank and explain that is where the fresh air is that we breathe.
  - c. Have the firefighter don the SCBA.
  - d. Have the firefighter talk with the students with mask on.
  - e. Explain the difference in how he/she sounds with the mask on.
  
- III. Discuss why younger children are sometimes afraid of firefighters.**
  - a. They look different.
  - b. They sound different.
  - c. During a fire it is already a scary, unaccustomed time.
  - d. Explain why firefighters need to wear what they do to do their job. The gear of a firefighter enables him/her to get the job done and to overcome obstacles. However when a firefighter is not fighting fires, a firefighter is also someone's mom or dad, uncle/aunt, and friendly neighbor. Emphasize that fighting fires is a very hard job. Fires are very hot and are very dangerous. That is why it is so important for you to dress in specialized gear. Discuss with the children how important it is to not be frightened by the firefighter in full gear. Stress that the gear helps to keep firefighters safe while they rescue people and put out fires. As you put the gear on, continue to emphasize that you are still the same guy. Try to diminish fears that the kids have. Have them touch your gloves, your coat, etc. In your gear, show kids how to crawl low under smoke. Have them practice with you

#### **IV. Journal**

Show the students where the journal pages are in the student handbook. Explain to the students that you would like them to spend a few minutes thinking and writing about what they learned in class today.

**Summary: 5 minutes**

Targeted Problem: *Younger children hide from firefighters during a fire.*

**Home / School Connection:**

Students fill out the student information sheet in their *student handbooks*. Students can also do the coloring page “Firefighters are our Friends” in the student handbook.

**Suggested Activities:**

- a. Have the students pass around the SCBA face piece to get accustomed to it.
- b. Have the students feel how heavy a fire helmet is.
- c. Have the students touch the fire coat/pants.
- d. If time, pick a student to dress out in the junior firefighter gear, either with the firefighter at same time, or after.
- e. Leave the junior fire gear with the teacher.

**Supplies Needed:**

Fire gear, SCBA, junior fire gear, 1 student handbook per child

**Website Activity:**

The city of Davis, California has a Firefighter Protective Clothing Tour that is interactive. Direct teachers and students to their website at [www.CityofDavis.org/fire/pct](http://www.CityofDavis.org/fire/pct). The students are given an opportunity to meet a female firefighter while learning about and observing the turnout gear that a firefighter needs to wear.