

# Lesson Plan: Operation Home Safe - Fire Marshal for a Day

## Materials Needed:

- Clipboard, paper, and pencils/colored pencils
- Graph paper (optional, for neater floor plans)
- Measuring tape
- Stopwatch (a phone app works perfectly)
- **For the 3D Model (Creative Option):** A large, flat piece of cardboard (for the base), shoeboxes or other small boxes (for rooms), craft sticks, construction paper, glue, scissors, and markers.
- A "Fire Marshal" badge (can be handmade for fun!)
- A 3-ring binder or folder to create the official "Home Fire Pre-Plan Portfolio"

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## 1. Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, Indian will be able to:

- **Analyze** his home environment to identify potential fire hazards and safety features.
- **Design** a clear, accurate, and actionable fire escape plan (a pre-plan) for his home, including two exits from every room and a designated family meeting spot.
- **Create** a visual representation of the plan, either as a detailed map or a 3D model, to effectively communicate it to his family.
- **Lead** his family in practicing the fire escape plan to test its effectiveness and build muscle memory.

## 2. Curriculum Alignment (Life Skills & Safety)

- **Practical Application:** This lesson moves beyond theory and requires the direct application of critical thinking and planning skills to a real-world environment.
- **Personal & Family Safety:** Aligns with core life skills curriculum focused on emergency preparedness and responsible citizenship within the family.
- **Spatial Reasoning:** Involves mapping and modeling, which are key skills in geography and mathematics.

## 3. Instructional Strategy: Project-Based Learning

This lesson is structured as a mission. Indian will take on the role of "Home Fire Marshal" to inspect, plan, create, and train. The project is divided into clear phases.

### Mission Briefing (Introduction - 15 minutes)

**Teacher:** "Good morning, Fire Marshal Indian. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to create a comprehensive fire pre-plan for this home. Firefighters create pre-plans for large buildings so they know the layout, dangers, and best ways to fight a fire *before* an emergency happens. You will be doing the same for our most important building: our home. Your goal is to create a plan so effective that everyone can get out safely and quickly. You'll create an official 'Home Fire Pre-Plan Portfolio' that we can use for years to come. Grab your clipboard and badge—your inspection begins now!"

## Phase 1: The Inspection (Investigation - 45-60 minutes)

Indian will conduct a thorough walkthrough of the house. On his clipboard, he will:

1. **Sketch a Floor Plan:** Draw a basic "bird's-eye view" of the home's layout. It doesn't have to be perfect, but it should show all rooms, doors, and windows. Use the measuring tape for extra accuracy if desired.
2. **Mark Safety Equipment:** On the sketch, use symbols to mark the location of all smoke detectors and any fire extinguishers. As he finds each smoke detector, he should help test it (with adult supervision).
3. **Identify Primary and Secondary Exits:** For every single room, identify the main way out (usually a door) and a second way out (usually a window). Draw arrows on the map showing these escape routes from each room.
4. **Identify Hazards:** Make a separate list of potential fire hazards. This encourages critical thinking. Examples: overloaded power strips, flammable materials stored near a heat source (like paper towels by the stove), candles, etc. Suggest one way to reduce the risk for each hazard identified.
5. **Choose a Meeting Spot:** Select a safe spot outside, far enough away from the house but still visible (e.g., a specific tree, the mailbox at the curb). Mark this clearly on the map.

## Phase 2: The Blueprint (Creation - 60-90 minutes)

Now, Indian will turn his rough sketch and notes into a clear and creative final product.

- **Option A: The Official Map.** Using graph paper and colored pencils, create a neat, final version of the fire escape plan. Use a key/legend for symbols (e.g., Red 'X' for extinguisher, Green Arrow for escape route).
- **Option B: The 3D Model (Highly Recommended for Kinesthetic Learning).** Using the cardboard base and shoeboxes, build a physical model of the house layout. Draw windows and doors on the "rooms." Use colored yarn or string to show the escape routes from each room to the outside. This makes the plan tangible and easy for everyone in the family to understand.

Both options should be added to the official "Home Fire Pre-Plan Portfolio."

## Phase 3: The Drill (Application & Practice - 30 minutes)

A plan is only good if it's practiced!

1. **The Walk-Through:** As Fire Marshal, Indian will lead the family on a walk-through of the plan, explaining the escape routes from each room and pointing out the meeting spot.
2. **The Timed Drill:** With everyone in their rooms, the teacher/parent will start the drill (e.g., by yelling "Fire drill!"). Indian will use the stopwatch to time how long it takes for everyone to get to the designated meeting spot. The goal isn't to be the fastest, but to be safe and orderly.
3. **The Debrief:** After the drill, Indian leads a discussion. What went well? What was confusing? Does the plan need any changes? This is a crucial step in refining the pre-plan.

## Closure: The Official Presentation (15 minutes)

Indian will formally present the "Home Fire Pre-Plan Portfolio" to the family. He will explain the map/model, the hazard list, and the importance of the meeting spot. This reinforces his learning and establishes family ownership of the plan.

## 4. Differentiation and Inclusivity

- **Support:** For a student who finds drawing challenging, focus on the 3D model, which relies on different skills. The teacher can also help with the initial rough sketch, allowing the student to focus on identifying routes and hazards.
- **Extension (Advanced Mission):** For a student who masters this quickly, add a research component.
  - Research the different classes of fire (A, B, C, K) and what type of fire extinguisher works for each. Does the home have the right kind?
  - Investigate where the home's utility shut-offs (water, gas, electricity) are located and create an instruction sheet for how an adult would turn them off in an emergency.
  - Create a "Go-Bag" checklist of important items to take in an evacuation (documents, water, first-aid kit, etc.).

## 5. Assessment Methods

Assessment is based on the completed project, not a test. It measures the application of skills.

- **Formative (During the Lesson):** Observe Indian's critical thinking during the inspection phase. Ask questions like, "Why is that a good secondary exit?" or "What makes that a good meeting spot?"
- **Summative (End of Lesson):** The "Home Fire Pre-Plan Portfolio" itself serves as the assessment.

### Evaluation Rubric:

- **Clarity of Plan (4 points):** Is the map/model easy to understand? Are escape routes clearly marked from every room?
- **Thoroughness of Inspection (4 points):** Are all safety devices marked? Is the hazard list thoughtful? Is the meeting spot well-chosen?
- **Leadership and Communication (2 points):** Did the student lead the drill and present the final plan effectively to the family?