
Session Plan: Using Facebook to keep updated during a bushfire (NSW, VIC, SA, TAS and ACT only)

Session overview:

This session will give learners an insight into keeping up-to-date with bushfire developments, as well as letting friends and family know you're safe using social media.

Learning objectives:

To increase knowledge and awareness of how social media can be beneficial during a bushfire crisis.

Suggested session length:

30 minutes

Documents to prepare:

Prior to the session, print the tip sheet "Finding reliable information online during a bushfire emergency" for learners to take away from the session.

Prior knowledge:

Learners should have a basic understanding of what social media is and ideally they would have a Facebook account set up prior to the session. There are courses on the [Be Connected Learning Portal](#) for learners that need a bit more help with the basics.

Section	Timing	Activity	Assessment
Introduction and welcome	5 minutes	Welcome everyone to the session, ask them to introduce themselves to each other and connect to WiFi if they're using a tablet or don't have mobile data.	
Group discussion	5 minutes	Ask learners what they know about using social media in a crisis. Questions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did you know you can let your friends and family across the world know that you're safe? - Do you know how to keep up-to-date with the latest developments from fire and rescue? 	See how many people can answer these questions. Learners may be aware of the features such as marking yourself safe in a crisis but may not be sure how to do it.
Demonstration	10 minutes	Distribute the "Finding reliable information online during a bushfire emergency" handout. Make learners aware that each state operates its own service and as such, they all have separate social media pages, too. Navigate to your relevant state's fire and rescue Facebook page. Scroll through the page's content and show learners the type of information available. Demonstrate how to 'like' and 'follow' the page to ensure updates are displayed in the learners' timelines. Play this YouTube clip demonstrating how to mark yourself as safe in a crisis . You may have to pause the video after each stage as it goes through the information quite quickly. Also, inform learners that in	

		Australia this feature is called 'Crisis Response', not 'Safety Check' like it is in the USA.	
Practical activity	5 minutes	<p>Get learners to open Facebook on their device and search for the same fire and rescue page you've just shown them. Let them decide if they wish to follow the page, but mention that they can always search for the page and check news stories and posts without following the page.</p> <p>Also, ask learners to navigate to the Menu on Facebook (located on the ☰ menu on a smartphone or tablet or down the left-hand menu on a computer). Unless there is a current crisis they won't be able to mark themselves as safe, but this is where they would come.</p>	<p>Learners should be able to navigate to the page and see posts from the fire and rescue service.</p> <p>Learners should be able to find the Crisis Response section on Facebook.</p>
Session wrap up	5 minutes	Bring learners together and talk about the benefits social media can have when dealing with a crisis. This is a good opportunity to mention any other sessions you may be running about preparing for a crisis such as a bushfire.	Learners should be able to understand the benefits of using something like social media to both share and retrieve information concerning crises.

Suggested next steps:

Good Things Foundation has two other session plans to help your learners understand what online resources are available to assist them during a bushfire. They are:

- [Using apps to monitor and keep safe during a bushfire](#) (this session plan is for residents of NSW, VIC and SA only at present due to unavailability of apps in other states and territories).
- [Using the internet to stay safe during a bushfire.](#)