
Session Plan: Using the internet to find reliable information during a bushfire emergency

Session overview:

This session will give learners an insight into some useful and reliable websites to gather information in the event of a bushfire emergency. There are many places on the internet that will share information during times of crisis, but not all of these are reliable. Learners will leave the session feeling confident that the sites they are checking will have accurate and reliable information that they can trust.

Learning objectives:

To increase knowledge of reliable sources of information relating to bushfires and increase confidence in accessing them.

Suggested session length:

45 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 already have a basic awareness of how to browse the internet. If learners are brand new to using the internet, they may feel more comfortable completing the [“Using the internet” course on the Be Connected Learning Portal](#). There is also a session plan on the Be Connected Network Partner site if you would like to hold a session on this beforehand.

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've brought their own devices.	
Group discussion	10 minutes	<p>Start a group discussion on what sorts of information learners can get from the internet when keeping updated during a bushfire emergency, along with where they might get it from.</p> <p>Depending on the session size, you could ask learners to write these on post-its or on a whiteboard/butchers paper.</p> <p>Talk through the suggestions learners have made, as well as adding any that they may have missed.</p>	<p>Learners should come up with the following as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News websites (ABC) • Fire service website • Fire service social media pages (if applicable) • Local emergency radio websites <p>Other useful sources are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google maps for route and traffic information • Register.Find.Reunite service from the Red Cross • ABC Emergency website • NSW RFS My Fire Plan website • Weather sites
Demonstration	5 minutes	Distribute the "Finding reliable information online during a bushfire emergency" tip sheet to learners. Navigate to your state's fire service website and show learners how to find information on the map and any other relevant information on the site.	

Practical activity	10 minutes	On their devices, learners should navigate to the same website and put in their address on the map. This will familiarise them with the website and give them the opportunity to ask you any questions about how it works or where to go on the website.	Learners should be able to successfully find their local area on the map and be confident in doing so when you're not there. Work your way around the room whilst learners are completing this activity, checking their understanding as you go.
Group discussion	10 minutes	Open up this news story on the SBS website . It's not necessary to read the article to learners, however, show them some of the pictures that are 'fake news' and stress the importance of sticking to reliable sources for all bushfire news. The tip sheet you distributed contains these.	Learners should understand that information for something as serious as a bushfire should only come from credible, verified sources.
Summary	5 minutes	Give learners the opportunity to ask any questions relating to news sources and where to get information from in relation to monitoring bushfires. Remind learners that whilst online tools are useful for keeping informed, however, they should also plan for if the power (and therefore internet) goes down.	

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 bushfires near you](#) (this session plan is only suitable for residents of NSW, VIC and SA only as other states don't utilise this method of communication).
- [Using Facebook to keep updated during a bushfire](#) (this session plan is only suitable for residents of ACT, NSW, VIC, SA and TAS only as other states don't utilise this method of communication).