

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

Session overview:

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

Learning objectives:

To increase learners' knowledge of reliable sources of information relating to disasters and increase confidence in accessing them.

Suggested session length:

45 minutes

Resources to prepare:

Print a CaptureIT sign in form (for Be Connected sessions), and the tip sheet "Tipsheet Finding reliable disaster information online" for learners to take home. Prepare the learning resources you plan to share on a large screen during the session and have them open on your device ready to show. Learners to "Bring your own" (BYO) Device or be set up with a loan device at your organisation prior to the session. WiFi password and details displayed clearly in the learning space.

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 first 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	Resources
Introduction and welcome	5 minutes	<p>Learners sign in using CaptureIT form (for Be Connected sessions) and connect to WiFi.</p> <p>Welcome everyone to the session, ask them to introduce themselves to each other. Consider using an icebreaker activity.</p>	Learners feel more comfortable with you and in the learning space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CaptureIT form ● Laptop, data projector, screen, cables, speakers ● WiFi password
Group discussion	10 minutes	<p>Discuss what sorts of information learners can get from the internet when keeping updated during a disaster and where they might get it from. Ask learners to write these on post-it - notes or on a whiteboard/butcher's paper.</p> <p>Talk through the suggestions learners have made as well as adding any they have missed.</p> <p>Make sure they include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● News websites (ABC as the emergency broadcaster) ● Your state's emergency services websites & social media pages (if applicable) ● Local emergency radio <p>Other useful sources you could mention are:</p>	Learners feel comfortable sharing their knowledge, and understand some sources of information available online during disasters/emergencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Post it notes or ● Butchers paper or ● whiteboard

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google maps for route and traffic information • Register.Find.Reunite service from the Red Cross • ABC Emergency website • Weather websites 		
Online learning	10 minutes	Ask learners to navigate to this article on the Be Connected learning portal .	Learners feel more confident and safer finding information online.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to find where the fires are burning across Australia Cyber safety tips Be Connected
Demonstration	5 minutes	<p>Hand out the “Finding reliable disaster information online” tip sheet to learners.</p> <p>Navigate to one of your state’s emergency services websites and show learners how to find information on it and any other relevant information on the site.</p> <p>This may include how to find information about their local area on the website’s map.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding reliable disaster information online tip sheet
Practical activity	10 minutes	<p>On their devices, ask learners to navigate to the same website, and enter their address on the map if available.</p> <p>This will familiarise them with the website and give them the</p>	Learners can independently navigate to an emergency services website and find their local area on a map.	

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		<p>opportunity to ask you any questions about how it works or where to go on the website.</p> <p>Work your way around the room while learners are completing this activity, checking their understanding as you go.</p>		
Group discussion	10 minutes	<p>Introduce the idea that not everything you see online can be trusted, even if it was shared by a friend.</p> <p>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 disaster news. The tip sheet you handed out contains these.</p>	Learners understand that information for something as serious as a bushfire should only come from credible, verified sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How fake bushfire images and misleading maps of Australia are spreading on social media SBS News
Summary	5 minutes	<p>Give learners the opportunity to ask questions.</p> <p>Remind learners that while online tools are useful for keeping informed, they should also plan for if the power (and therefore internet) goes down.</p>		

Section	Timing	Activity	Assessment	Resources
		Wrap up the session and let learners know about other relevant sessions you are running.		

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 disaster / emergency. They are:

- [Using apps to monitor disasters near you](#)
- [Using Facebook to keep updated during an emergency](#)