Purpose:
To prevent fires from occurring in our homes.

Objectives:
Participants will understand why fires in our homes are dangerous and how they can prevent them.

Overview For Trainers:
This lesson has been proven to save lives. You are playing a major role in preventing fires and saving lives when you teach this lesson.

For each question that you ask regarding prevention, allow the participants to come up with their own answers before providing the details. If you are teaching in a larger setting, you could use newsprint to write the questions and their answers.

Please remember to give the community the correct phone number or numbers to call for emergencies in your local area (fire and medical emergencies).

Time: 30 to 90 minutes

Attitude:
Facilitator understands the role of individuals in preventing fires in the homes.

Skill:
Participants will be able to discuss what to do in case of a fire.

Evaluation:
Participants should know how to prevent and respond to fires.

Materials:
Newsprint, markers, emergency numbers, information about local community prevention and response volunteer programs.
Lesson One: PREVENTING FIRES IN OUR HOMES
Sara was cooking in her house when fuel spilled and the house caught fire. She ran outside to call for help but the fire spread quickly to other houses and could not be controlled.

S – What do you see?

H – What is happening?

O – Does this happen in our place?

W – Why does this happen?

D – What will you do about it?
Sara was cooking in her house when fuel spilled and the house caught fire. She ran outside to call for help but the fire spread quickly to other houses and could not be controlled.

S – What do you see?

H – What is happening?

O – Does this happen in our place?

W – Why does this happen?

D – What will you do about it?
You can prevent fires by making choices in how your home is set up and the things that you do.

- Identify hazards.
- Check wiring for exposed wires, having too many appliances for the number of plugs and illegal hook ups.
- Don’t leave candles or open flames unattended.
- Ensure combustibles are not stored too close to heaters/fuel/flame (clothing, curtains, hair, fuel, paper).
- Don’t smoke in bed.
- Talk to your children and neighbors about preventing fires.

(5 to 10 minutes)
HOW CAN YOU PREVENT FIRES IN YOUR HOME?
How would you get to safety in case of a fire?

- Practice having a fire drill at home.
  (How will you get out if there is an uncontrollable fire?)
- Make sure exits are safe to use.
  (Feel the door if it is hot and identify another route.)
- Leave immediately.
- Sound the alarm.
- Know your escape routes.
  (Know routes even in the community in case the fire spreads quickly.)
- Have a meeting place outside that everyone knows (assembly point).
- Make sure everyone is accounted for.

Why is it important to practice how to get out of your home safely?

- Practicing a drill will help you to know what to do in an actual fire. During an actual fire you may be panicked and not know what to do. If you practice a safe escape you and your family will be more likely to get out of a fire without injury.
- Practicing an exit drill in the home could save your life if a fire breaks out.

(10 to 15 minutes)
EXIT DRILL IN THE HOME (E.D.I.T.H.)

How would you get to safety in case of a fire?

Why is it important to practice how to get out of your home safely?
What should you do if there is a fire?

- Sound the alarm. Tell others by yelling: “FIRE FIRE FIRE!”
- If the fire is small and you know what to do, try to extinguish it if you can do that safely. (There are other trainings on this topic).
- Get out and get to safety. (Don’t stop to collect your personal belongings and don’t return.)
- Close doors as you exit to try to minimize the spread of the fire.
- Call the fire brigade/fire department.
- Sound the alarm to your neighbors.
- Stay low, crawl on the floor if there is smoke and keep your mouth and nose covered (minimize smoke inhalation).
- Go to your meeting place/assembly point.
- Make sure everyone is out; take a head count.
- Unless you are helping to put out the fire, stay back from the fire and help to guide the fire brigade into the community when they arrive.

If you are going to help fight the fire, what do you need to know?

- You need to be safe first.
- Throwing the fire out into the community increases danger for everyone.
- Mobilize others to help. Gather tools to help fight the fire.

(10 to 20 minutes)
What should you do if there is a fire?

If you are going to help fight the fire, what do you need to know?
WHAT IS THE NUMBER FOR CONTACTING THE FIRE BRIGADE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Provide the number for the fire brigade and other emergency services.

Your local fire brigade wants to help the community.

• Do you know the firefighters who respond to your community?
• What do you think about them?

How can you help them when they come to fight a fire in your community?

• Firefighters want to help you and your community.
• Some fire brigades do not have enough resources to get to your home quickly, but they are coming to help.
• When the fire brigade arrives, make space for them by clearing the area so that the fire truck can get through.
• Throwing rocks at the firefighters or their equipment, cutting the fire hose, damaging or stealing equipment means that the firefighters cannot help you as easily when they come and may cause them to leave.

• You can help make the community safe for firefighters to come and assist you by telling others that firefighters are there to help you.

Would you be interested in volunteering to help fight fires in your community or to help others learn about fire prevention?

Provide information about volunteer brigades or community fire prevention and response activities.

(5 to 10 minutes)
Do you know the firefighters who respond to your community?

What do you think about them?

How can you help them when they come to fight a fire in your community?

Would you be interested in volunteering to help fight fires in your community or to help others learn about fire prevention?
What have you learned from this lesson?

- You can prevent fires in your home by being diligent about safety in your home.
- Practicing fire exit plans with your family will allow them to escape safely in case of a real fire.
- If there is a real fire, notify others, get to safety and notify the fire brigade.
- The fire brigade wants to help you and your community stop the fire.
What have you learned from this lesson?
Lesson Two:
SAFE USE OF CANDLES AND LAMPS
SAFE USE OF CANDLES AND LAMPS

Purpose:
To prevent fires from occurring due to improper use of candles and other heating and light sources.

Objectives:
Participants will understand how to safely use candles and other heating and light sources.

Overview For Trainers:
This lesson has been proven to save lives. You are playing a major role in preventing fires and saving lives when you teach this lesson.

For each question that you ask regarding prevention, allow the participants to come up with their own answers before providing the details. If you are teaching in a larger setting, you could use newsprint to write the questions and their answers.

Please remember to give the community the correct phone number or numbers to call for emergencies in your local area (fire and medical emergencies).

Time: 30 to 60 minutes

Attitude:
Facilitator understands the role of candles and other heating and light sources for lighting purposes and how to properly use them.

Skill:
Participants will be able to discuss how to use candles and lamps and how they can be dangerous.

Evaluation:
Participants should be able to name ways to safely use candles and lamps to prevent dangerous fires. Participants will know how to contact the fire brigade in case of fire.

Materials:
Newsprint, markers, emergency numbers
The boys, Dan and Dominic, stared at the candle burning on the table in their home. They had become mesmerized by the flickering of the flames. Their sister, Lynn, ran into the room and knocked over the candle. The flame hit a curtain and started a fire.
The boys, Dan and Dominic, stared at the candle burning on the table in their home. They had become mesmerized by the flickering of the flames. Their sister, Lynn, ran into the room and knocked over the candle. The flame hit a curtain and started a fire.

S – What do you see?

H – What is happening?

O – Does this happen in our place?

W – Why does this happen?

D – What will you do about it?
CANDLES AND LAMPS – USES AND DANGERS

Candle and Lamp Uses:
What are some uses for candles and lamps?

Dangers of Candles and Lamps:
What are the dangers of using candles and lamps?

What other materials in your home are dangerous for fires?
Candle and Lamp Uses

What are some uses for candles and lamps?

• Lighting living areas.
• Starting cooking fires.

Dangers of Candles and Lamps

What are the dangers of using candles and lamps?

• A lot of fires that are caused by candles and lamps occur in the living space.
• Falling asleep accounts for many of the fires started by candles and lamps.
• Combustibles left too close to candles and lamps account for more than half of the fires started by candles and lamps. Combustibles include clothing, curtains, hair, fuel, paper and anything else that will catch fire.
• Playing around or touching the candle or lamp flame can also start a fire and is dangerous.

What other materials in your home are dangerous for fires?

Help the participants think of other things that might be a fire risk in their homes.
What are ways we can prevent fire in our homes when we use candles or lamps?

What is the number for contacting the fire brigade in your community?
What are ways we can prevent fire in our homes when we use candles or lamps?

- Blow out candles or lamps when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Keep candles and lamps at least 12 inches (30 centimeters) away from anything that can burn, such as clothing, curtains, hair, fuel, paper.
- Ensure children know the dangers of playing with candles, lamps or any kind of fire.

What is the number for contacting the fire brigade in your community?
Provide the phone number for the fire brigade and other emergency services.
Think back to the story at the beginning of this lesson. What could have prevented the fire in the story?

What have you learned that you can teach others about preventing fires?
SUMMARY

Think back to the story at the beginning of this lesson. What could have prevented the fire in the story?

What have you learned that you can teach others in preventing fires?

- Children are not the only ones who love to watch fires. Adults will catch themselves staring at fire from time to time.
- Since the dawn of time men have used fire to cook with, light their houses and warm their living areas.
- Candles and lamps can be dangerous if you don’t pay attention. The same flames that help us can also become a nightmare.
- Unattended candles and lamps have been known to start fires that can easily burn not only your living space, but many others’ as well. However, if we are diligent around candles and lamps we can take steps to prevent fires from occurring in our community.
- Families would do well to talk to each other about the dangers of open fires and be thankful for the blessing that they provide.
Lesson Three:
PREVENTING COOKING FIRES
Purpose:
To prevent fires caused by cooking.

Objectives:
Participants will understand and be able to prevent and extinguish cooking fires.

Overview For Trainers:
This lesson has been proven to save lives. Cooking fires have been known to start larger fires, especially in the heavily populated areas contained within unstructured settlements.

For each question that you ask regarding prevention, allow the participants to come up with their own answers before providing the details. If you are teaching in a larger setting, you could use newsprint to write the questions and their answers.

Please remember to give the community the correct phone number or numbers to call for emergencies in your local area (fire and medical emergencies).

Time: 30 to 60 minutes

Attitude:
Facilitator understands that creating a safe home environment for cooking could save lives and property.

Skill:
Participants will be able to identify safe cooking methods and how to prevent fires.

Evaluation:
Participants should be able to identify safe cooking methods and how to prevent fires.

Materials:
Newsprint, markers, emergency numbers
Anne was cooking in her home and the food caught fire. She got scared and threw the pot and cooking stove out of the door of her house. The debris outside her home caught fire and her home and several others were soon lost to fire.

S – What do you see?

H – What is happening?

O – Does this happen in our place?

W – Why does this happen?

D – What will you do about it?
Anne was cooking in her home and the food caught fire. She got scared and threw the pot and cooking stove out of the door of her house. The debris outside her home caught fire and her home and several others were soon lost to fire.

S – What do you see?

H – What is happening?

O – Does this happen in our place?

W – Why does this happen?

D – What will you do about it?
Why do fires start from cooking?

What can we do to prevent fires from cooking?
Why do fires start from cooking?
- Stove or fire is left unattended.
- Items are left too close to the cooking area.

What can we do to prevent fires from cooking?
- Stay close to what you are cooking and monitor it closely. If you need to leave, turn off the flame.
- Stay awake and alert when you are cooking. Alcohol and some drugs can make you sleepy.
- Wear short sleeves or roll them up so they don’t catch on fire.
- Keep your hair and clothes away from the flame.
- Keep children and animals away from cooking area. (Three feet is recommended.)
- Clean and clear the space around the cooking area before you turn on the heat. Move things that can burn, including dish towels, bags, boxes, paper and curtains.
- Turn pot handles away from you so that no one can bump them or pull them over.
- Keep a pan lid or a metal sheet nearby. Use it to cover the pan if it catches on fire. This will put out the fire.
What are hazards in your home that may cause a cooking fire?

How could you extinguish a small cooking fire?
What are hazards in your home that may cause a cooking fire?
• Fuel
• Grease
• Combustibles: clothing, curtains, hair, fuel, paper and anything else that will catch fire

How could you extinguish a small cooking fire?
• Never put water on a grease fire; put a lid on it.
• Keep the pan where it is. Do not move it!
• Slide pan lid or a metal sheet on top of the pan. This takes away the air. The fire goes out.
• Turn off the heat.
• Keep the lid on the pan until it is cool.
• Never try to stop a grease or oil fire with water. Water will make the fire bigger.
• Never use flour to extinguish a fire as it may explode or make the fire worse.
• For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
• For a microwave fire, unplug the unit and keep the door closed.
WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO IF THE FIRE GETS OUT OF CONTROL?

- Sound the Alarm
- Call the fire brigade
- Get to Safety
What do you need to do if the fire gets out of control?

- Sound the alarm: FIRE FIRE FIRE!
- Call the Fire Brigade
  - Provide the number for the fire brigade and other emergency services to participants.
- Get to safety

(See the Preventing and Responding to Fires in our Homes training for more details.)
How could you prevent getting burned from cooking?

What should you do if you burn your skin?

What should you do if your clothes catch fire?

What is the number for contacting the fire brigade in your community?
How could you prevent getting burned from cooking?
- Use hot pads to take food out of the oven, cooking stove, fire pit and microwave.
- Keep your face away from hot steam.
- Keep hot food and drinks away from the edges of tables and counters.

What should you do if you burn your skin?
- Cool the burn.
- Put the burn in cool water immediately.
- Keep it there for three to five minutes. This helps stop the burning.
- Cover it with a clean, dry cloth. If the burn is bigger than your palm, get medical help.

What should you do if your clothes catch fire?
- Stop where you are immediately.
- Drop to the ground, and cover your face with your hands.
- Roll over and over, or roll back and forth. Keep doing this until the fire is out.
- Put the burn in cool water for three to five minutes and get medical help.

What is the number for contacting the fire brigade in your community?
Provide the number for the fire brigade and other emergency services.
What have you learned that you can tell others about preventing and extinguishing cooking fires?
What have you learned that you can tell others about preventing and extinguishing cooking fires?

Cooking good food for our families is a very good thing. Fires from cooking can be reduced if we take action to identify and reduce the hazards around us.
Lesson Four:
PREVENTING BURNS FROM FIRE
Stop, Drop and Roll
**Purpose:**
To prevent the loss of life or the possibility of severe burns when a person catches on fire.

**Objectives:**
Participants will understand and demonstrate the lifesaving technique of stop, drop and roll.

**Overview For Trainers:**
This lesson has been proven to save lives. You are playing a major role in preventing fire and saving lives when you teach this lesson.

For each question that you ask regarding prevention, allow the participants to come up with their own answers before providing the details. If you are teaching in a larger setting, you could use newsprint to write the questions and their answers.

Please remember to give the community the correct phone number or numbers to call for emergencies in your local area (fire and medical emergencies).

**Time:** 30 to 60 minutes

**Attitude:**
Facilitator understands that properly showing people how to extinguish fire when it involves you and your clothes could save a life.

**Skill:**
Participants will be able to demonstrate the technique of stop, drop and roll.

**Evaluation:**
Participants should be able to demonstrate the technique of stop, drop and roll.

**Materials:**
Newsprint, markers, emergency numbers
The little girl, Lucy, wanted to be like her mother when she grew up. She often thought about what it would be like to cook. Her mother let her older sister cook for the family when she had to go to work and Lucy wanted to help, too. She never anticipated her clothes catching on fire that day. When she leaned over the stove, her clothes caught on fire and started to burn. She immediately became scared and started to run.
The little girl, Lucy, wanted to be like her mother when she grew up. She often thought about what it would be like to cook. Her mother let her older sister cook for the family when she had to go to work and Lucy wanted to help, too. She never anticipated her clothes catching on fire that day. When she leaned over the stove, her clothes caught on fire and started to burn. She immediately became scared and started to run.

S – What do you see?

H – What is happening?

O – Does this happen in our place?

W – Why does this happen?

D – What will you do about it?
Do you think there is a better way to stop the fire?

Do you think that this could work to prevent the fire from growing if your clothes catch fire?
**TEACH STOP, DROP AND ROLL**

**STOP**
When your clothes catch on fire you must immediately **identify the problem** and stop. Do not run away. It will only make the fire bigger and hurt you more.

**DROP**
After you stop you must **prepare yourself** by dropping to the ground.

**ROLL**
Next **take action** by covering your face and rolling back and forth until the fire is out.

This action should be done very quickly if your clothes catch fire.

Do you think that this could work to prevent the fire from growing if your clothes catch fire?

Discuss what would make it easy or difficult. Talk about how this technique can reduce burns and injuries from fire.

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**IF YOUR CLOTHES CATCH FIRE WHAT DO YOU DO?**

Participants may discuss running (making the flames bigger), screaming or even dropping to the ground.

Does what you do make the fire bigger or smaller?
Running = bigger fire
Screaming = doesn’t stop the fire
Dropping to the ground = might help

Do you think there is a better way to stop the fire?
LET’S PRACTICE STOP, DROP AND ROLL.

Role Play:
Pretend that you catch on fire and practice STOP, DROP and ROLL to put out the fire.

STOP
When your clothes catch on fire you must immediately identify the problem and stop. Do not run away. It will only make the fire bigger and hurt you more.

DROP
After you stop you must prepare yourself by dropping to the ground.

ROLL
Next take action by covering your face and rolling back and forth until the fire is out.
When your clothes catch on fire you must immediately identify the problem and stop. Do not run away. It will only make the fire bigger and hurt you more.

After you stop you must prepare yourself by dropping to the ground.

Next take action by covering your face and rolling back and forth until the fire is out.
WHAT IS THE NUMBER FOR CONTACTING THE FIRE BRIGADE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?
WHAT IS THE NUMBER FOR CONTACTING THE FIRE BRIGADE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?
Provide the number for the fire brigade and other emergency services.
What have you learned?
What have you learned?
- If you use stop, drop and roll you will prevent burn injuries and decrease the spread of fire.
Lesson Five:
PREVENTING ELECTRICAL FIRES
Purpose:
To prevent fires caused by faulty electrical wiring.

Objectives:
Participants will understand and be able to identify faulty electrical wiring.

Overview For Trainers:
This lesson has been proven to save lives. Faulty electrical wiring has been known to start fires, especially in the heavily populated areas contained within unstructured settlements.

For each question that you ask regarding prevention, allow the participants to come up with their own answers before providing the details. If you are teaching in a larger setting, you could use newsprint to write the questions and their answers.

Please remember to give the community the correct phone number or numbers to call for emergencies in your local area (fire and medical emergencies).

Time: 30 to 60 minutes

Attitude:
Facilitator understands that properly identifying electrical hazards could save lives and property.

Skill:
Participants will be able to identify electrical hazards and learn how to prevent fires.

Evaluation:
Participants should be able to identify electrical hazards and ways to correct hazards from electricity.

Materials:
Newsprint, markers, emergency numbers
Three community members are talking:

Person 1: I want to have electric supply in my home.

Person 2: You can go to the power supply company to have electricity connected in your home.

Person 3: I have another way you can get electricity. Why don’t you tap it directly from the line?

Person 2: It can be cheaper, but more expensive because it is not safe.

S – What do you see?

H – What is happening?

O – Does this happen in our place?

W – Why does this happen?

D – What will you do about it?
Three community members are talking:

Person 1: I want to have electric supply in my home.

Person 2: You can go to the power supply company to have electricity connected in your home.

Person 3: I have another way you can get electricity. Why don’t you tap it directly from the line?

Person 2: It can be cheaper, but more expensive because it is not safe.

S – What do you see?

H – What is happening?

O – Does this happen in our place?

W – Why does this happen?

D – What will you do about it?
POWER OF ELECTRICITY

How do we get electricity into our homes?

How do we use electricity?

What are some dangers of electricity?
How do we get electricity into our homes?
Electricity can be brought into the home from the power lines legally or illegally. When it is legal the purchaser directly pays the power company.

How do we use electricity?
Electricity is a very powerful tool that is used every day. We use it to light our homes and use it for some types of cooking. Some buildings also use electricity for heating and cooling.

What are some dangers of electricity?
We take action by confessing our sins to the only One who is able to forgive them: God. (1 John 1:9) When electricity is used improperly it can cause death from electrocution or start a fire that can grow out of control quickly.
IDENTIFYING HAZARDS/RISKS
What are some hazards you have seen with the use of electricity?
Look around; can you identify any electrical hazards here?

REDUCING HAZARDS/RISKS
How can some of these hazards be reduced?

- Exposed wiring
- Too many appliances into one electrical cord
- Extension cords under rugs or across doorways
- Electricity tapped from a neighbor or a power line
IDENTIFYING HAZARDS/RISKS
What are some hazards you have seen with the use of electricity?

Look around your area to see if there are any hazards:
• Exposed wiring
• Too many appliances into one electrical cord
• Extension cords under rugs or across doorways
• Electricity tapped from a neighbor or a power line

Reducing Hazards/Risks
How can some of these hazards be reduced?

Talk about how the hazards can be reduced:
• Use electrical tape to cover exposed wires.
• Avoid using too many appliances at once, which will overheat the wire.
• Unplug items when you are not using them.
• Avoid running extension cords under carpets or across doorways. Extension cords should go along the wall in the corner in order to avoid people walking on them and damaging the cord over an extended period of time.
• Purchase electricity directly from the power company and allow the power company to connect and maintain the electricity in your home.
• Warn children of the dangers of playing with electricity.
How can you safely extinguish electrical fires?

How can you get help to extinguish the fire?
How can you safely extinguish electrical fires?

- Turn off the source of electricity as quickly as possible.
- If you can safely extinguish the fire when it is small, do so.
- Never use water on an electrical fire. Use a powder or (ABC) fire extinguisher, which will not shock you.
- You can use sand or dirt to smother a fire, but remember if the power is still on the situation is still dangerous.
- If there is no fire extinguisher available, turn off the electricity first and then use water.

How can you get help to extinguish the fire?

- Sound the alarm: FIRE FIRE FIRE!
- Call the Fire Brigade.
- Provide the number for the fire brigade and other emergency services to participants.
- Get to safety.

(See the Preventing and Responding to Fires in our Homes training for more details.)
What have you learned that you can tell others about preventing and extinguishing electrical fires?
What have you learned that you can tell others about preventing and extinguishing electrical fires?

Electricity is a powerful tool that can improve our lives, however it can also be very dangerous, starting fires and causing electrocution.

Problems from electricity can be reduced if we take action to identify and reduce the hazards around us.
Additional Resources available:
http://www.africafiremission.org/fire-safety-curriculum/

Additional Resources retrieved May 25, 2016
Information on how to use a fire extinguisher – British Type:
http://www.safefiredirect.co.uk/Page/54/videos-how-to-use-a-fire-extinguisher-safely.aspx

Information on how to use a fire extinguisher (includes a video) – United States Type:
http://www.fire-extinguisher101.com/using.html

Teaching Fire extinguisher use:
https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/extinguishers.html
Thank you for using Africa Fire Mission’s Fire Prevention Curriculum. Africa Fire Mission created this curriculum to be used by fire departments, missionaries and NGOs – especially in Africa. Fire is one of the most important elements in the world and throughout history. Harnessed correctly it provides heat, light, security and food. When not handled properly it threatens our homes, our possessions and our lives. This curriculum is designed to help educate children, individuals and families to reduce the risk of fire and respond safely and appropriately to fires. Our hope is, that through the use of this material, fires will be reduced in communities and people will be safe from the dangers of fire.

To learn more about Africa Fire Mission’s Fire Prevention and Fire Safety programs, go to www.AfricaFireMission.org

Sincerely,
David A Moore, Jr, MPA, CFO, MIFireE
Executive Director