

**Talk Time Topic: Fire Safety & Prevention**

**Let's get started...**

Think about these numbers: 4,000 Americans die every year in a fire and another 20,000 Americans are injured in fires.

In your opinion, what makes fire so dangerous?

**Background:**

Fire prevention and safety is something that we all need to think about. Here are three things everyone can do to make their homes safer:

1. Put at least one smoke alarm in your home or apartment with batteries that work.
2. Walk through your home looking for fire hazards. (a lot of paper, broken wires)
3. Put matches and lighters out of reach of children.



**In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:**

Have you ever had a fire in your home or apartment? Or, do you have a friend that has had a fire? What happened?

**Share your partner's answers with the group.**

**Discussion Questions:**

What are three things you might want to change at home in order to prevent a fire?

What advice would you give to a friend about fire safety?

In the U.S., children and adults learn about fire safety and prevention in schools and at work. Do people learn about fire safety in your country? At what age?

Many home fires start in the kitchen? What can people do to make cooking safer?

What can you do to put out a small kitchen fire?

Do you know what to do if you do not have a fire extinguisher? Think of all the things that put out a fire.

★ Actually, most homeowners and renters insurance policies require that you have at least one fire extinguisher in your home or apartment. If you do not have a fire extinguisher, where do you think you can go to buy one?

Do you know how to get out of your house or apartment if there is a fire? Talk about it now. Is there a fire escape in your apartment?

In the U.S., firefighters recommend that people make and practice a fire escape plan. Does your family have a plan that they can follow in an emergency?

Do you know the difference between “fire resistant” and “fire proof” materials? What things in your house might have these labels on them?

Have you ever been burned? What did you do?

What should you do *if* you do get burned?

What is the worst fire you have ever seen? How did it start?

In the U.S., we have smoke detectors in every building. Did you use smoke alarms in your country?

Do you know the saying “don’t play with fire”? What does it mean? Do you have a similar saying in your language?

Christmas and Halloween decorations can be very dangerous. Why do you think this is true? Which kinds of decorations are safe and which kinds are dangerous?

In the U.S., many people like to go camping in the spring and summer. Camp fires often start forest fires. Why do you think this is true? How can people prevent forest fires?

Do you own a smoke alarm? How often do you check the batteries? Have you ever checked the alarm and found that it wasn’t working?

**New words and Idioms:**

Flammable, non-flammable, dangerous, burned, spread, hot, chimney, fireplace, fire escape, electric space heaters, lighters, matches, electrical fire, extension chords, electric blankets, fire hazards, fireworks, camp fires, forest fires, candles, cooking oil, flammable fabrics, fire resistant materials, fire extinguishers, burn proof, fire screen, smoke alarms, warning signs, “don’t play with fire”, etc.