

Overview

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) has developed an educational game (www.vicses.com.au/stormsafe-game) which depicts a neighbourhood that has just received a severe thunderstorm warning. Players have to identify potential hazards to houses in a neighbourhood, select and fix them up, while earning items for their Home Emergency Kit.

The following lesson plan can be conducted before or after the game has been played and assists in consolidating students' learning and understanding.

It is suggested that any observations, student work or comments recorded during this lesson be displayed in your classroom, under the heading 'How to be StormSafe', for others to see and learn from.

How can we be prepared during a storm? What is an emergency kit and why is it important to have one?

Outline	Materials	Time	Conclusion
To cover storms, why we need to be prepared and how we can be prepared during a storm.	- Optional – <i>Support material #1: Storms</i> <i>Support material #2: Before and after scenarios</i> <i>Support material #3: Home Emergency Kit items</i> <i>Support material #4: Explanation of Home Emergency Kit items</i> <i>Worksheet #1: Home Emergency Kit items</i> - Writing materials, coloured pencils/textas	1 hour	Students will gain an understanding of storms, how and why they need to be prepared and what is in a Home Emergency Kit.

Introduction

15 minutes

- 1 Begin by asking students what they know about storms. *What are they? What happens during a storm?* If required, show students pictures of storms from *Support material #1* which can be used as talking points.
- 2 Show students *Support material #2* and discuss what they can see in the before and after scenarios. Discuss what damage can occur during a storm and write student responses on the whiteboard. Responses might include: damage to property, roof leaks, power outage, flooding.
- 3 Look at the points written on the board and see if students can come up with ways to be prepared for that point. For example: You can be prepared for flooding by putting all your valuable items high off the ground.

Activity

25 minutes

- 4 Explain to students that it is important to be prepared during a storm. One way we can be prepared is to have a Home Emergency Kit. Home Emergency Kits usually contain 12 items that will help us if our house is affected by a storm.

- 5 Place students into 12 groups (most groups will have two people in them). Give each group one of the Home Emergency Kit pictures from **Support material #3**. (See **Support material #4** for an explanation of each item contained in the kit.)
- 6 Give students 10–15 minutes to write down on a piece of paper what their item is, how their item can be used during an emergency and why their item is important.

Conclusion

20 minutes

- 7 Students share with the class what their kit item is and why it is necessary. Students can contribute to the discussion on how each item can be used and why it is necessary. As students present, place the picture of their item on the board or somewhere visible for all students.
- 8 Once all groups have shared, look at the items in the kit. Ask students if they think it is important to have a Home Emergency Kit to be prepared. Revise what has been learnt throughout the lesson.
- 9 Distribute copies of **Worksheet #1** to students and request that they take it home. Ask students to colour in each item, write what it is and discuss with their parents what they have learnt about storms and being StormSafe.

Extension activity

- Students can create an advertisement for SES, informing the wider community of how they can be prepared for a storm emergency by having a Home Emergency Kit. They can outline what is in a Home Emergency Kit and why the items are important. This advertisement can be a poster, play or digital presentation. If possible, students can present their advertisement to classes at school.



Support material #1

Storms

Grades 3 & 4







Support material #2



Before and after scenarios

Grades 3 & 4



Tie down loose objects.



Or they may fly into windows or buildings



Remove loose branches.

Strong wind can easily snap branches and smash into fences and other property.



Hail could damage and dent the car.

Park the car undercover





Support material #3

Home Emergency Kit items

Grades 3 & 4













Explanation of Home Emergency Kit items

Grades 3 & 4



1. A battery operated or wind-up radio – to listen for warnings, updates or alerts.



7. A waterproof bag or container – to keep valuables dry and safe. Valuables may include important papers, photographs, etc.



2. A battery operated or wind-up torch – in case of power outages to help you see in the dark.



8. A good supply of everyone's medicines and prescriptions – in case you have to leave your house then you won't waste time finding these important items.



3. Spare batteries to fit radio and torch.



9. Strong shoes or boots – so you can walk safely around if there is damage.



4. A first aid kit – to assist with any medical issues that may arise.



10. A copy of your Home Emergency Plan – every house should have a plan of what to do in an emergency.



5. Rubber gloves and strong leather work or garden gloves – to enable you to pick up/move heavy/sharp items. Rubber gloves prevent liquids touching your skin.



11. Special needs – if someone in your house has special needs, such as a walking stick, or babies milk it's important to have these in case you have to leave quickly.



6. Mobile phone and charger – to stay in contact with people if the telephone line goes down.



12. Non-perishable food and drinking water for every person and pets to last for 3 days – in case there is damage and you are unable to leave your house for a period of time.

Home Emergency Kit items

Grades 3 & 4

