



Be Disaster Safe



Earthquakes



Home Safety



Lightning



Wildland Fires



Floods



Tornadoes



Facing Fear



Fire Prevention
and Safety



In the Aftermath



Hurricanes

MASTERS *of* DISASTER®

Quick-Start Guide



American
Red Cross

Look inside for
easy steps to make
Masters of Disaster
work for you.

5

Am I safe?

Why did it happen?

Will it happen again?

These are the kinds of questions children are likely to ask, whether the disaster occurred near their homes, in a neighboring state or on the other side of the world.

The American Red Cross created *Masters of Disaster* to help you be ready to answer these questions as soon as they arise.

Follow these five easy steps to make *Masters of Disaster* work for you!

STEP 1 FIND WHAT'S INSIDE.

Masters of Disaster covers 11 topics that address specific types of disaster—weather-related, geological or human-caused; what to do in different phases—before, during and after; and in different places—in the community, at school and at home.

To **Prepare** for and **Respond** to weather-related, geological or human-caused disaster—

- *Be Disaster Safe*
Learn how and when to prepare for and respond to all types of disaster in the community, at school and at home.
- *Earthquakes, Floods, Hurricanes, Lightning and Tornadoes*
Understand the science behind these natural disasters, assess the risks in your area, and learn to prepare for and respond to the hazards that come with each of these disasters.
- *Facing Fear*
Take preparedness actions for new challenges that have emerged with a new century and answer difficult questions about terrorism, war and pandemic flu.

To **Prevent, Prepare** for and **Respond** to fires and accidents in the home—

- *Fire Prevention and Safety and Wildland Fires*
Learn how to remove hazards to prevent fires and set up and follow plans to stay safe in case fires occur.
- *Home Safety*
Support a safe environment to prevent injuries and be prepared in case they happen.

To **Recover** from any disaster—

- *Fire Prevention and Safety*
Understand the losses that happen when one home is devastated by fire and learn how to support those who have experienced this type of personal disaster.
- *In the Aftermath*
Learn the steps of recovery and the actions we must take to help ourselves and others heal after a single-family, community, national or international disaster, from coping with change and personal loss to rebuilding a community.

STEP 2 SEE WHO CAN USE IT.

Everyone who supports children’s learning and is concerned with children’s safety can choose the ideas that work for him or her; you don’t have to be a classroom teacher to take advantage of *Masters of Disaster*. Families, boys’ and girls’ clubs, Scouts, after-school programs, libraries, civic associations, Red Cross and high-school community service volunteers, “the Y” and religious organizations have the opportunity to put *Masters of Disaster* to work in their communities.

The material is broken down into grade-level groups for students in primary, elementary and middle school. This also allows for easy adaptation for preschool or students with special needs. The safety and preparedness messages for the grade levels are the same, while the activities and academic expectations are age-appropriate.

For All Facilitators

Background

Information you need in terms you can understand makes *you* the expert and gives students the edge in understanding what they need to know to stay safe.

Activities

Activities are nonsequential—you decide which are most important for the students with whom you work. Modules are tailored to students’ needs, interests and abilities in grades K–2, 3–5 and 6–8.

Note: Find *In the Aftermath* and *Facing Fear* for grades 9–12 on the *Masters of Disaster* Web site at <http://www.redcross.org/disaster/masters/>.

Lesson Plans and Directions

Step-by-step lesson plans and easy-to-follow directions enable the activities to fit a variety of time frames and learning environments.

Reproducible Activity Sheets

Guide hands-on participation with creative designs for finding and sharing facts, brainstorming ideas, playing games and organizing information for students and their families.

Glossary

Every key term or concept is defined in a comprehensive vocabulary list that focuses on the specific word usage relating to the topic.

Safety Checklists

Search for hazards to reduce the risk, make a plan and build a kit with easy-to-use lists of essential information to help you prepare.

Especially for Teachers

National Education Standards

All lesson plans and activity sheets are integrated across your curriculum. Use the behavioral objectives within each lesson plan to select only those activities that fit your classroom requirements.

Assessment

Activity wrap-ups provide performance assessments to focus your observations and to examine and evaluate student products and presentations. The purpose of these assessments is to help make sure students have met the stated objectives as they discuss, share, analyze and critique.

TEACHING NOTE More formal assessments are included online at <http://www.redcross.org/disaster/masters>.

Linking Across the Curriculum

Cross-curricular activities tie key concepts within the lesson plan to a broad range of curriculum topics and can be used as reinforcement, enrichment or stand-alone assignments.

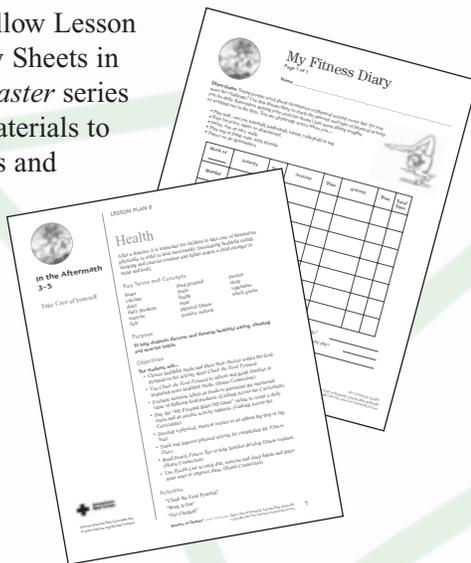
STEP 3 CHOOSE WHAT YOU WILL USE.

Use the Table of Contents for the CD-ROM to select just what you need.

- *Choose your age group according to grade level.*
The material has been created for children ages 5 through 14 (primary, elementary and middle school), but is easily adapted for preschool as well as high school students.
- *Choose your safety topics.*
You may decide to use one, two—or all the topics. Consider the specific needs of the students you are teaching; the greatest risks within your community; or, if you are an educator, the areas of your curriculum you would like to address.
- *Choose your activity or activities.*
Most of the activities within *Masters of Disaster* work independently of one another. It is up to you how many and how often you'd like to use them. Select what works best for your time frame.
- *Go online to access resource material.*
Throughout *Masters of Disaster* you will find links to online resources to help you and your group of students discover more about the topic under discussion.

STEP 4 LOOK AT THE SAMPLE LESSON PLAN.

Use the easy-to-follow Lesson Plans with Activity Sheets in the *Masters of Disaster* series of preparedness materials to help guide students and their families to be safer in case of a disaster. See the many special features found in each ready-to-go lesson in *Masters of Disaster*.

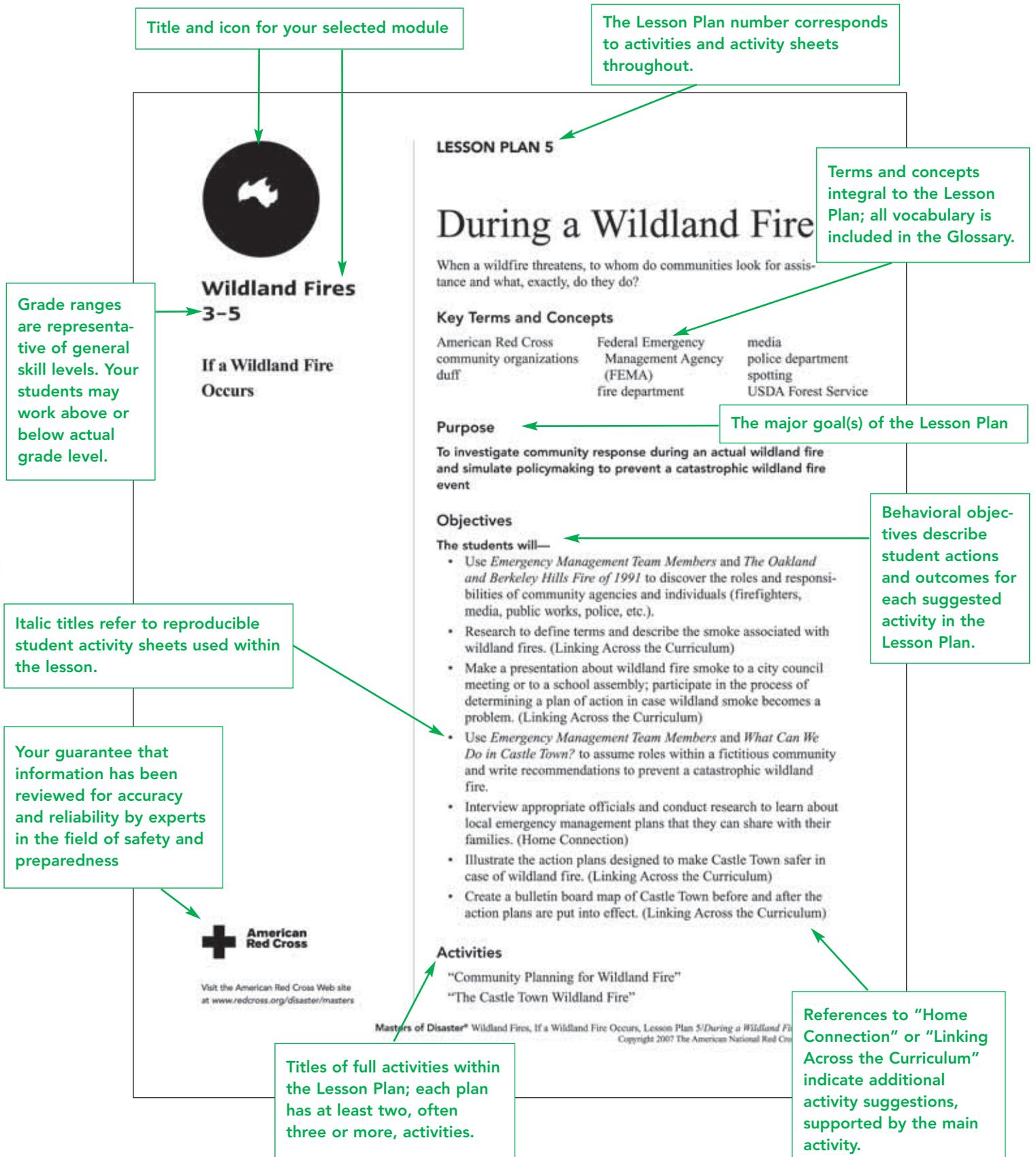


STEP 5 START TODAY TO BECOME MASTERS OF DISASTER!

Showing the DVD, distributing the stickers and certificates and displaying the poster in this package are other fun ways to motivate children to learn about disasters. We hope you will start right away and join the American Red Cross in building a culture of preparedness among young people today.



Front Page of Each Lesson Plan



Tie the information together as students discuss, share, analyze and critique.

Check to make sure students have met the objective.

Wildland Fires 3-5
LESSON PLAN 5
During a Wildland

Wrap-Up
Assign the students to write newspaper articles reporting the wildland fire event and the community's response. Different students will assume the various journalistic roles, from the on-the-spot news reporter to the writer of editorial commentary.

Following the discussion, invite representatives from any of the organizations the tabletop enactment included. Have the representatives observe and evaluate a second enactment. Make sure to invite someone from your local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Home Connection
Determine how to guide students to interview appropriate officials—a few students on behalf of the whole class or each student contacting different officials—and conduct research to learn about local emergency management plans. Have students specifically ask about the actions individuals and families must take in the event of a wildland fire. Share information in a class discussion and at home with family.

Your link to the home—activities for families to do together

Wildland Fires 3-5
LESSON PLAN 5
During a Wildland Fire

Materials

- Emergency Management Team Members, 1 copy per student if not used in the previous activity
- What Can We Do in Castle Town?, 1 copy per student
- Blocks (wooden or plastic), enough to build a small community on a large tabletop
- Construction materials or ready-made materials to add details, such as vegetation and roads, to the tabletop

"The Castle Town Wildland Fire"
SET UP 15 minutes CONDUCT two 30- to 40-minute sessions, plus 15-20 minutes for reading

Social Studies: Government and Civics

1. If in the previous activity you assigned roles from *Emergency Management Team Members*, have each student reread the description of his or her role. If you have not already assigned roles, assign them now using *Emergency Management Team Members*.
2. Distribute *What Can We Do in Castle Town?* Have the students work together to build this community on a large tabletop using blocks or paper cutouts, showing homes, stores, government offices, roads, vegetation, etc.
3. Once the town is built, hold a town meeting to discuss preparations the citizens must make to protect their homes and businesses in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
4. Using the narrative on page 2 of *What Can We Do in Castle Town?* as your guide, stage a wildland fire event in the tabletop community with each team member taking his or her assigned role. The event begins with the fire still some distance from the community, but at this point, no clear prediction can be made of its path. Give the students time to discuss any further steps they will take to prepare in case the fire comes their way.
5. After reading the October 26 news report for Castle Town, discuss the community response. What problems occurred? What would the students change, if anything? As a class, have the students develop action plans for keeping Castle Town safe in the event of wildland fire.

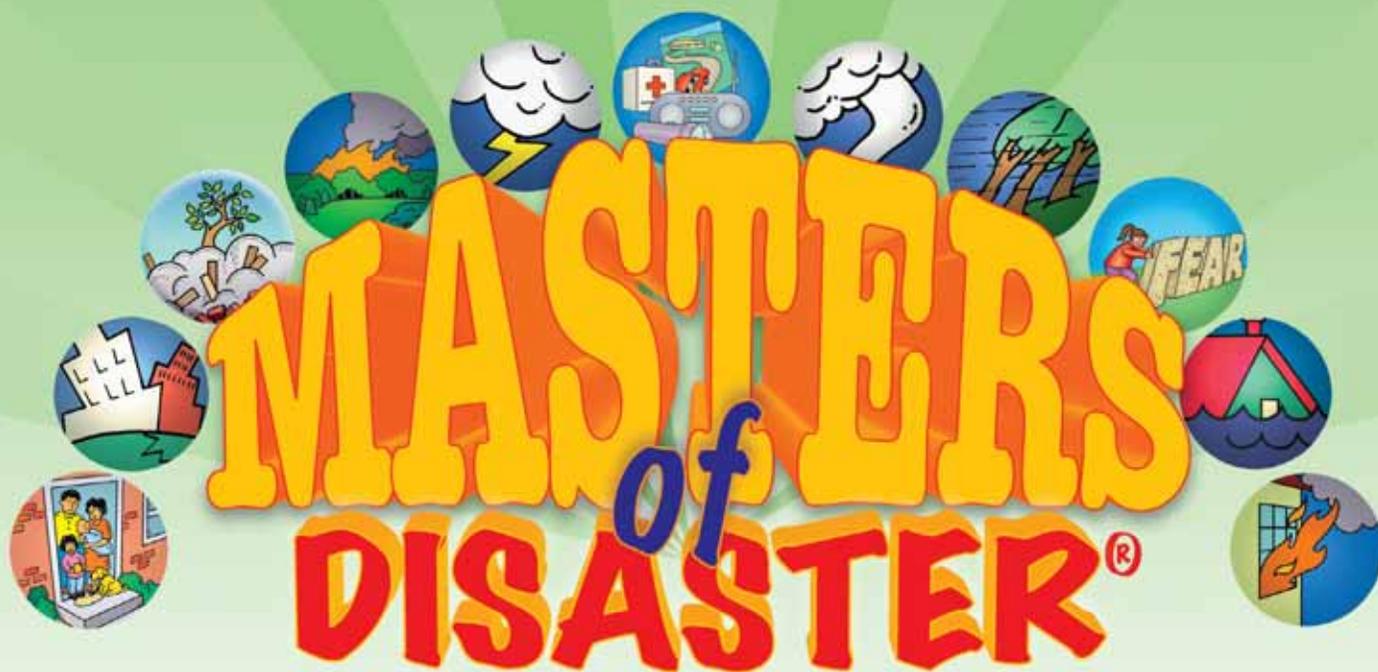
TEACHING NOTE Give the students time to react after each day's news report.

- Health risks caused by problems that arise including—
- Running out of supplies at the last minute that are needed by homeowners as they prepare for the wildfire.
- People refusing to leave their homes despite orders by homeowners as the fire.
- Spectators coming to "watch the show" as firefighters struggle to extinguish the fire.
- Residents trying to return to their homes before firefighters have declared it safe to do so.

American Red Cross logo and text: "Visit the American Red Cross Web site at www.redcross.org/education/masters"

Masters of Disaster® Wildland Fires, If a Wildland Fire Occurs, Lesson Plan 5 During a Wildland Fire Copyright 2007 The American National Red Cross

Tips to make the activity work better for you



**Building a culture of preparedness
among young people today.**

