

TEACHING ADULTS ABOUT FIRE SAFETY

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INJURY PREVENTION TRAINING

Injury Prevention Daily
Quick Drills - Easy Access
to Training Topics

Do you know how to effectively teach fire safety to adults?

Firefighters have opportunities to educate adults about fire safety. Being able to identify basic learning characteristics and having knowledge of how adults learn is critical.

References:

NC FLSE Education I,
Characteristics of the
Audience

NFPA 1035 Standard for
Professional Qualifications for
Public Fire and Life Safety
Educator

1. The learning characteristics of adults:
 - a) They are problem centered.
 - b) They are influenced by experience (“I’ve done it that way 20 years and never had a fire”).
 - c) They demand respect.
 - d) They need to be free to direct themselves.
 - e) They are practical, focusing on the aspects of a lesson most useful or relevant to them.
2. Instructional methods to use when working with adults:
 - a) Provide environments where adults feel safe, supported and needs are honored.
 - b) Adults are goal oriented and instructors must show adults how class will help them attain their goals.
 - c) Relate theories and concepts to the participants and recognize the value of their experiences.
 - d) Draw out experiences. Adults will bring their own experiences to learning.
 - e) Relate to audience needs.
3. Examples of appropriate activities:
 - a) Lecture.
 - b) Active involvement in learning, as opposed to passively listening to lectures.
 - c) Ask for and provide feedback.
4. Adults have responsibilities and because of these responsibilities, adults have barriers against participating in learning. Some of these barriers include lack of time, money, confidence, lack of information about opportunities to learn, scheduling problems, and transportation.