

# TEACHING SENIOR 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 Senior Adults?

### Reference:

NC FLSE Education I,  
Characteristics of the  
Audience

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

NFPA Remember When  
Curriculum

Firefighters have opportunities to educate Senior Adults about fire safety. Being able to identify basic learning characteristics and having knowledge of how Senior Adults learn is critical. Older adults have an unusually high risk of fire and burns.

1. The learning characteristics of Senior Adults:
  - a) Reduced physical abilities.
  - b) Reduced income.
  - c) Often in diminishing health.
  - d) Often more women than men in any given group of senior adults learners.
  - e) May be lacking confidence because of age.
2. Instructional methods to use when working with adults:
  - a) Be patient, friendly and respectful.
  - b) Compensate for reduced physical abilities (larger fonts, easy access, etc.)
  - c) Draw out experiences. Senior Adults will bring their own experiences to learning.
  - d) Foster a spirit of collaboration in the learning setting.
3. Examples of appropriate activities:
  - a) Lecture.
  - b) Active involvement in learning, as opposed to passively listening to lectures.
  - c) Include a question and answer period.
4. Senior adults have experiences that can be used as a foundation for learning new things.
5. Senior Adults have established opinions, values and beliefs which have been built up over time; experience of families, relationships, work, community, politics, etc. These views cannot be dismissed and must be respected.