

Lesson 5

GARRETT'S INTERVIEW:

Following is an interview with a 5th grade boy whose family lives in Jordan Hill area. His family went through a wildfire scare when he was in the 2nd grade. One year later, they experienced a house fire that could have been a disaster for the neighboring community. However, the quick response of the fire department and the fact that they had defensible space around their home averted a disaster.

Q=Interviewer

A=Garrett's response

Q How did you know that your house was on fire?

A I had just walked out of our house to do my chores when my mom drove up. She had heard the water heater explode. She said, "Get the 2 kids and the dogs and get outside!"

Q What did you do next?

A I got the kids and all of the dogs. Mom ran in to get stuff and one of the dogs went back in. My little brother kept trying to run in and get the dog. I held on to him no matter how hard he tried to get back in.

Q What did the family do next?

A The fire department was coming so we had to move to clear the driveway. Mom moved our car and I had to stay in the car with my brother and baby sister.

Q Were you able to stuff out?

A Not really. My mom and dad got a lot of antique stuff out.

Q What did you lose?

A My clothes, my toys, my Play Station, our TV and stuff...

Q How did you feel about that?

A Pretty sad.

Q What do you remember about the fire department?

A They came up and blocked off the road for a while. They got there by the time I was in the car with my little brother and sister. They got water out of our swimming pool into their tanker.

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Q Did anyone other than the fire department come to help?

A A lot of people came. The Red Cross was there when it was still burning. Other people came when I was gone to my mom's friend's house. Lots of friends came to bring things. One friend brought a huge ice chest with food; he brought pots and pans, toothbrushes and toothpaste, toilet paper.

Q What about school?

A I missed about 2 weeks, but I had to make up the work.

Q How did your school friends treat you?

A They were really nice; they kept asking how I was.

Q I hear you got a special award. What was it and where did you get it?

A I got it from the Butte County Fire Department, at school in front of everybody at the school. There were teachers, kids, friends and firemen. The person who presented the award was Janet Marshall from the California State Forest Service. I got it for keeping my brother from going back into the house.

Q What advice would you give kids about surviving a fire?

A Stay out of a burning house. If you catch fire, STOP, DROP, ROLL!

Q When your house burned it was destroyed. Your home is in the woods. How come no wildfire started?

A The fire department got there fast. We also had defensible space around the house where the goats ate down all the vegetation.

TEACHER: Ask questions as you feel appropriate.