

Name _____

Date _____

Civics 4 Kids!

Calling 911



Emergency: A serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action.

Emergencies happen when we least expect them, and they require quick thinking and action. A 911 emergency is when someone needs help right away because they got hurt or they are in danger.

When to Call 911

For example, call 911 if:

- there is a fire
- someone is choking
- someone is not moving or waking up after an accident
- you see a crime happening, like someone breaking into a house
- you are in or see a serious car accident
- someone has trouble breathing - like during an asthma flare-up or allergic reaction



When you call 911, the emergency dispatch operator will ask what, where, and who questions such as:

- "What is the emergency?" or "What happened?"
- "Where are you?" or "Where do you live?"
- "Who needs help?" or "Who is with you?"



Try thinking about what situations are appropriate to call 911:

Situation 1:

Should you call 911 if your house is on fire? **YES | NO**



Situation 2:

Should you call 911 if your friend dares you to? **YES | NO**

Situation 3:

Should you call 911 if someone is hurt and can't get up? **YES | NO**

Discussion Points:

- It is important to call 911 and report emergencies because...



Answer Key

Calling 911



It is okay if the child does not know the answers, and you can help them by talking through the answers below.

Situation 1:

Should you call 911 if your house is on fire? - Yes, this is an emergency and you should call 911 right away.

Situation 2:

Should you call 911 if your friend dares you to? - No, you should only call 911 in emergency situations.

Situation 3:

Should you call 911 if someone is hurt and can't get up? - Yes, you should call 911 when someone is unconscious, has trouble breathing, or has fallen and can't get up.

Discussion Points:

It is important to call 911 and report emergencies because...

Answers will vary but may include saving someone's life or preventing a crime. Encourage students to think about what it would be like if they had to call 911. Explain that it is important not to call 911 as a dare or for fun. Point out that all 911 calls are taken seriously, and police, fire and ambulance will show up, once 911 is dialed.