

Session Plan: Using Facebook to keep updated during a disaster

Session overview:

This session will give learners an insight into keeping up to date with disasters through more reliable sources on social media, as well as letting friends and family know they're safe using social media. NOTE: Not all states/territories emergency services may have an official Facebook account, and if you are on a state border you may need to review more than one - check before you run this session.

Learning objectives:

To increase knowledge and awareness of how social media can be beneficial and challenging during a disaster, and what may be reliable vs unreliable information.

Suggested session length:

40 minutes

Resources to prepare:

Print a CaptureIT sign in form (for Be Connected sessions), and the tip sheet "Tipsheet Finding reliable disaster information online" for learners to take away from the session. Prepare the learning resources you plan to share on a large screen during the session and have them open on your device ready to show. Learners to BYO Device or be set up with a loan device at your organisation prior to the session. WiFi password and details displayed clearly in the learning space.

Prior knowledge:

Learners should have a basic understanding of what social media is and ideally have their own Facebook account prior to the session. There are courses on the [Be Connected Learning Portal](#) for learners that need a bit more help with the basics.

Section	Timing	Activity	Assessment
Introduction & welcome	5 minutes	<p>Learners sign in using CaptureIT form (for Be Connected sessions) and connect to WiFi.</p> <p>Welcome everyone to the session, ask them to introduce themselves to each other.</p>	Learners feel more comfortable with you and in the learning space.
Group discussion	5 minutes	<p>Ask learners what they know about using social media in a crisis. Questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Did you know you can let your friends and family across the world know that you're safe? ● Do you know how to keep up to date with the latest developments from emergency services? ● What information may not be reliable or trustworthy on Facebook during disasters? <p>Distribute the "Finding reliable information online during disaster" handout. Make learners aware that each state or territory operates its own service and they all have separate social media pages.</p>	<p>See how many people can answer these questions. Learners may be aware of the features such as marking yourself safe in a crisis but may not be sure how to do it.</p> <p>Learners understand that not all information they see online is reliable and to check official sources of information.</p>

Section	Timing	Activity	Assessment
Online learning	10 minutes	Ask learners to complete the 'Introduction to Facebook' or 'Using Facebook' online course on the Be Connected learning portal .	Learners feel more confident using Facebook.
Demonstration & Practical activity	8 minutes	<p>Navigate to your relevant state or territory emergency services Facebook pages. Scroll through the content and show learners the type of information that is available. Note that not all states might have a Facebook page, like QLD.</p> <p>Demonstrate how to 'like' and 'follow' the page to ensure updates are displayed in the learners' timelines.</p> <p>Ask learners to open Facebook on their device and search for the same emergency services pages you've just shown them. Let them decide if they wish to follow the pages, but mention that they can always search for the page and check news stories and posts without following the page.</p>	Learners can navigate to the correct, reliable Facebook page and see posts from the fire and rescue service.

Section	Timing	Activity	Assessment
Demonstration & Practical activity	8 minutes	<p>Introduce Facebook’s Crisis Response feature. Show a resource or play a video such as this YouTube clip demonstrating how to mark yourself as safe in a crisis. You may have to pause videos after each stage.</p> <p>Discuss these safety tips for using Crisis Response on Facebook.</p> <p>Ask learners to navigate to the Menu on Facebook (located on the ☰ menu on a smartphone or tablet or down the left hand menu on a computer).</p> <p>Unless there is a current crisis they won’t be able to mark themselves as safe, but this is where they would come to do so.</p>	Learners can find the Crisis Response section on Facebook and understand how to use it more safely.
Session wrap up	5 minutes	<p>Bring learners together and talk about the benefits and challenges of social media when dealing with a crisis.</p> <p>This is a good opportunity to mention any other sessions you may be running about preparing for a crisis or using social media.</p>	Learners understand the benefits and challenges of using social media to both share and retrieve information concerning crises.

Suggested next steps:

Good Things Foundation has two other session plans to help your learners understand what online resources are available to assist them during a bushfire. They are:

- Using apps to monitor and keep safe during a disaster
- Using the internet to stay safe during a disaster