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Would **you** know what to do ?

FIRST ON SCENE: 1 ALCOHOL

Teacher's Copy
V1

Summary

This story is designed to highlight the need for prompt action when someone suffers the severe effects of consuming large amounts of alcohol (binge drinking). In particular, it shows what can happen when someone becomes unconscious because of alcohol, the importance of simple first aid and obtaining medical assistance as quickly as possible when dealing with an unconscious person

The story starts with a group of male and female friends drinking outside. A large amount of alcohol is purchased and some of the friends are keen to get drunk quickly. The alcohol is consumed and one of the boys, Scotty, becomes very drunk and wanders off to the toilet. He does not re appear and two of the girls set off to check if he is okay. They find him unconscious in a wooded area nearby. The group is faced with the dilemma of what to do. The film shows two scenarios based on the actions of the group upon finding Scotty unconcious. The first scenario shows what would happen if they left him and the second shows the preferred course of action - phoning an ambulance.

Suitable Age Groups

This lesson is designed for pupils from 12 to 18 years.

Resources

Television with DVD player or,

Computer with DVD player, speakers, projector and screen.

Pens or pencils.



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Learning Objectives

Pupils will:

- Understand how to react when a person becomes unconscious because of alcohol consumption;
- Understand the important physical affects of alcohol;
- Know the roles of the ambulance and police services at such incidents

Lesson Outline

1: Outline the Learning Intentions to the class and discuss if required

2: Explain lesson plan

3: Divide class into 5 groups

(This can be done in a fun way such as asking them to form a line based on length of arm span for example and then numbering them 1-5)

4: Assign a scribe with pen / pencil to each group

5: Explain the importance of the role of the scribe in collecting the ideas of the group and for the members of the group to respect each other's opinions.

6: Watch video

7: Explain that they will be given a set of questions, which they will have to answer within five minutes.

8: Explain it is not a test and no criticism will be levelled at any pupil for incorrect answers.

9: Hand out question sheets to each group.

10: After 5 minutes stop groups.

11: Explain that each group will now present their answers.

12: As each group presents their answers discuss these with the whole class to decide if anything can be added.

This is a useful time to bring out any other learning points the teacher may feel relevant.

13: Recap with reference to learning intentions.



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QUESTION SHEETS



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GROUP 1.

What were the friends doing at the start of the story?

Hanging out. Drinking alcohol. Having fun.

How did the alcohol they were drinking affect their behaviour?

They were laughing, fooling around, play fighting, having fun. Their behaviour becoming loud and losing control of themselves.

How long does it take for alcohol to affect you?

For each mouthful it takes about 5 to 10 minutes for the first affects and 20 minutes for it to reach the whole body. This means there is a 20-minute delay before the alcohol from when each mouthful is taken until its effects are fully felt. This is more pronounced for stronger drinks like spirits, strong beer and cider, as there is more alcohol in each mouthful. This causes problems for teenagers who want to feel the effect quickly and so may drink large quantities of alcohol like vodka, quickly and over a short period. As the effects are not felt immediately they cannot judge the effect this will have until it is too late.

How much alcohol do you think Scotty had to drink before he collapsed?

There is no correct answer for this. The affects of alcohol vary for each person depending on, for example, their size, weight, age and gender.

GROUP 2

Was every one enjoying themselves?

No, two of the girls thought things were getting out of hand.

What could the two girls do to protect themselves from the effects of alcohol?

Pretend to drink.

Spill or pour away drink.

Eat some food before they go out.

Drink plenty of non alcoholic fluids and sugary drinks during and after drinking.

Don't mix drink and drugs.

Bring their own drink and water it down before meeting their friends.

Never leave drink unattended in case it is spiked.

Know what you are drinking – don't trust others drinks.

Stay with each other for safety.

Have a plan for getting home.

Have a codeword for parents which means 'come and get me!'

Should the others have been worried about Scotty when he left the group in his condition and if so, why?

Yes. He was not fit to look after himself. As we saw later on, when something went wrong, he was very vulnerable.



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GROUP 3

What happened to Scotty when he went to the toilet?

He fell over and became unconscious in a wooded area, out of sight.

Why did the two girls go to look for Scotty?

They knew he was drunk and were worried something might have happened to him. This was sensible and it appears later they were not as drunk as the others and actually wanted to leave the group as they did not feel safe.

When they found him, he was lying on his back unconscious. What do you think had happened to him?

He had become unconscious through consuming too much alcohol.

He may have tripped, fallen and banged his head.

He may have suffered from a medical illness brought on by drinking and perhaps mixing drink and drugs.



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GROUP 4

Why was Scotty in danger when he was unconscious?

Even though he had stopped drinking, more alcohol would be entering his body from the alcohol he had drunk prior to becoming unconscious.

The exact cause was unknown. He may have taken drugs as well or suffered from an unknown medical condition brought on by drinking too much.

Alcohol is known to be a gateway drug to illegal drug use: in a survey carried out in 2006, 34% of 15 year olds who were weekly drinkers had taken drugs in the previous month.

If he had vomited, he may have choked on his vomit and suffocated.

He might have suffered from hypothermia even if the weather was not cold.

The normal reflexes which wake you when the above happen (i.e. cold and sickness) do not work when unconscious through drink, drugs or a head injury.

He may have other medical conditions, which are not apparent.



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In the first scenario, why do you think Scotty's friends ran away and left him?

They were scared they would get in trouble if they called an ambulance.

*They might have been scared of their parents reaction.
They were drunk and not thinking properly.*

They did not know what to do.

How could things have become worse for the group if Scotty had not received prompt medical help from the ambulance Staff?

If he had become seriously ill, the consequences for the group would have been far worse and they would be criticised far more for running away than for drinking when they shouldn't.

This is discussed further in Group 5's questions.



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GROUP 5

In the second scenario, one of the girls took charge, what did she do that could have saved Scotty's life?

She took time to think and assess what had happened.

She checked Scotty for signs of life.

She told one of the boys to phone for an ambulance.

She put him in the recovery position and waited for the ambulance to arrive to direct them to Scotty.

She told the ambulance staff exactly what had happened

S.T.A.C. : Stop, Think, Assess, Call (phone 999).

How do you think Scotty's friends would have felt if they had left him and he had died from alcohol poisoning?

A range of answers may be given here. Some pupils may even suggest it was Scotty's fault for getting drunk

What is the role of the police is at a situation like this?

Protect life.

Find out what happened and whether Scotty's condition is likely to be life threatening, i.e. he might die. If not then details of all involved would be taken. If they were under 16 they would be taken home to their parents or guardians, especially if they were obviously drunk. This is usually what happens in these sorts of situations.



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If Scotty's condition looked as though it was life threatening then the police would have to make enquiries to find out exactly what had happened. Scotty's friends might be searched for drugs, interviewed and the alcohol and empty bottles taken as evidence.

If Scotty died, the situation would become very serious, especially if his friends had run off and left him as in the first scenario. The fact they had run away indicates the others may have been responsible for his death and therefore they might be treated as suspects. This would mean they could be detained and taken to a police station for interview.