Fire Scenario Challenge

Introduction

In this activity, we'll explore a real-world problem to understand why fire safety is important and how data helps us make decisions.

The Fire Scenario

A fire occurred in a 15-story apartment building in Philadelphia last night. Unfortunately 2 residents died and the fire caused significant damage to several apartments on the 8th floor. The building didn't have a sprinkler system. Now, the City Council is thinking about making it mandatory for all high-rise buildings in the city to have sprinklers. However, property owners are against this idea because it can be expensive.

Your task is to analyze this situation and consider the different perspectives involved.

Small Group Discussion

In your groups, discuss the following questions:

1. What factors might have contributed to the fire and its spread in the apartment building?
2. What are the potential consequences of a fire in a high-rise building without sprinklers?
3. Who are the different people or groups that would be affected by this situation, and what might their concerns be?
4. What information would you need to make an informed decision about whether or not to support a sprinkler mandate?

Class Discussion

We will come together as a class to discuss your thoughts and questions. Be prepared to share your ideas and listen to your classmates. We will create a class chart of what we know and what we want to learn.

Driving Question

Our class will be working to answer this question:

- How can data and scientific evidence inform decisions about fire safety policies in high-rise buildings?

Connecting to the Real World

We will be looking at the real-world debate around fire sprinkler rules in Philadelphia to help us answer this question. You'll learn that different people have different opinions and that data is very important for supporting arguments.