

Did you know?

- Children “playing” with fire start 100,00 reported fires in the United States.
- Yearly, fires set by youth cause an estimated 350 deaths and 3000 injuries.
- Fire protection costs and property loss attributed to youth fires exceeds \$300 million annually.
- More than 50% of persons arrested for arson are under 18 years old.
- Almost 7% of youth arrested for arson are under the age of 7.
- More than 80% of children who set fires will be repeat offenders if left untreated.
- If united, a community or region can address the needs communicated by children and youth through their firesetting behavior.

Information courtesy of the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner and the Pennsylvania Juvenile Firesetting Intervention Advisory Group

If you know of a child involved
in firesetting:

Contact

FCJFIP

Assistant Chief William Dubbs
FF Jackie Umberger
Chambersburg Fire Department
130 North Second Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201

717-263-5872

fcjfip@chambersburgfire.com

Franklin County Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program

General Public

A Program for the
Prevention and
Mitigation of
Juvenile Firesetting



What to look for:

- It is not uncommon for children to play with fire, motivated by emotional disturbances, mental disturbances, peer pressure, or plain curiosity. Children do not understand the consequences of fire play, making even curious fire play dangerous.
- Signs of fire play include finding burnt or scorched clothing, paper, or toys, finding lighters or matches in your child's room or clothing.
- If you think that your child is involved with fire play, alone or with another child, you can contact the Franklin County Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program (FCJFIP) and request that he or she be evaluated for firesetting behavior.
- The goal of the program is to identify juvenile firesetters and provide resources for treatment before the child damages property or injures him/herself or others.
- Treatment usually consists of fire safety education for the child and may recommend individual or family counseling.
- The organization is comprised of fire department personnel, mental health and social workers, as well as representatives from law enforcement and the juvenile justice system.

What to do:

- If you are concerned that your child is involved with fire play, start by making your house fire safe—see the suggestions in this brochure.
- Contact the FCJFIP by phone or email and request an assessment of your child :

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- FCJFIP will come to your home and conduct an assessment of your child that involves the entire family. The results will be reviewed by a multi-disciplinary team that will make recommendations as to treatment steps.
- Participation in the program at this level is voluntary. If your child is involved in a firesetting incident that involves law enforcement and the juvenile justice system, participation may be required.
- For more information contact the FCJFIP by phone or email.
- Statistics show that juveniles that participate in a firesetter intervention program rarely repeat their firesetting behavior. Most of those that do not receive help will light more fires.

Fire Safety:

- Teach your child about fire: Fire is a tool that should only be used by grown-ups. Fires start small and grow quickly, doubling in size every 30 seconds.
- Practice fire safety in your home: Install, maintain, and test smoke alarms in the home. Practice home fire drills. Teach your children what to do if they find lighters or matches.
- Limit access to fire and flame: Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children. Never leave open flames, stoves, or candles unattended. Never allow candles in children's rooms. Supervise all children when they are around open flames, fireplaces, grills, or candles.

The FCJFIP is a part of the South Central Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program and the Pennsylvania Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Task Force.