

In the United States, children are responsible for 54% of all purposefully set fires.



FIRES & FIREPLAY

Your child could change their lives and the lives of everyone around them with the single strike of a match.

Firesetting behavior is a growing problem in the United States, with thousands of fires set by children each year. These children range in age from toddlers through late adolescence. They come from all socioeconomic groups, all cultures and all family structures.

One in seven deaths due to purposefully set fires is set by a child under 15 years of age.

PREVENTION TIPS

Children 5 Years Old and Under:

Take the mystery out of fire play and teach your children that fire is a tool, not a toy.

- Matches, lighters and any heat-producing appliances should be locked up.
- Teach young children to tell an adult if they find matches or a lighter. Reward them for doing so.

Children 6–12 Years Old:

Take the time to teach your children about the potential destruction of fire.

- Make time for regular communication.
- Set the example for fire safety. Have your children watch the way you:
 - Cook: turning pot handles away from reach, never leaving a burner unattended, etc.,
 - Light: the fireplace, barbecue and candles

Take a moment to teach them that these tasks must be performed only by adults or under adult supervision.

Youth 13–17 Years Old:

- Teach and model conflict and stress management skills.
- Involve your adolescent in decisions that affect her or him. Encourage positive relationships with peers and adults and be available for regular communication.
- Provide healthy activities (sports, youth groups or church).

firesetter.ffburn.org



FIRE IS NOT COOL



**Firefighters Burn Institute
Youth Firesetter Program
(888) 452-SAFE (7233)
firesetter.ffburn.org**

Serving The Greater Sacramento Region
And Surrounding Counties



The Firefighters Burn Institute Youth Fire-setter Program (FFBI YFP), headquartered in Sacramento, California, is comprised of fire, probation, burn and healthcare professionals who provide a coordinated effort in helping child firesetters and their families receive the assistance they need through assessments, psychological referrals and education.

Fire safety is a family matter. Let us help.

FFBI YFP provides a 2-session academy course offered at various times throughout the year. Children attend age-appropriate classes, while parents/guardians attend informational training seminars.

Families will learn safe and responsible behaviors related to fire use in the home as well as financial, emotional and social consequences of firesetting. Topics include:

- Fire safety education
- Fire hazard recognition
- Home escape planning
- Responsibility, leadership skills
- Problem solving skills
- Consequences
- Communication
- Thinking errors
- Peer pressure
- Dealing with and sharing feelings



FACTS OF FIREPLAY



56,300
FIRES

Each year, fires started by youths account for an average of:

110 880

CIVILIAN DEATHS CIVILIAN INJURIES

\$286,000,000

DIRECT PROPERTY DAMAGE

More young children set fires in homes, while teens are more likely to set fires outside.

60% of child-set home fires happen in their own bedroom.

50% of child-set fires in homes were started by cigarette lighters.

Source: National Fire Protection Association, www.nfpa.org. Statistics drawn on 2005–2009 data.

FIRESETTERS: WHO & WHY?

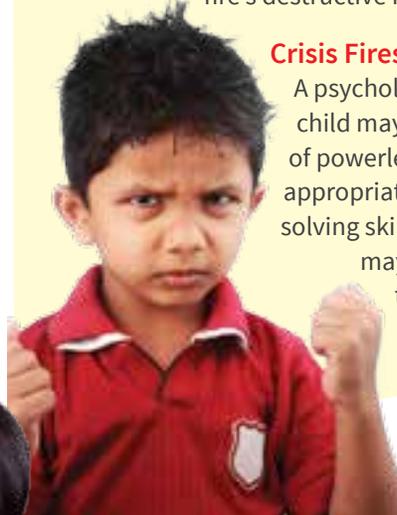


Curiosity Firesetter

A Curious Firesetter is likely an active child that is a hands-on (tactile) learner. The child may try to experiment with matches and lighters, but is rarely aware of fire's destructive nature.

Crisis Firesetter

A psychologically-stressed child may experience feelings of powerlessness. Lacking the appropriate coping or problem-solving skills, the Crisis Firesetter may set fires to act out their anger or as a cry for help, perhaps even wanting to be caught.



Thrill-Seeking Firesetter

A risk-taking youth whom sets fires, often under peer influence. Enjoys attention-getting behavior that may copy video games or internet videos.

Delinquent Firesetter

The child is old enough to know the danger of fire, and may even have the intent to injure or kill. Fires set at this stage are often considered a criminal act, so the youth may already be in the juvenile justice system, but overall still regards such consequences as a joke.

Disturbed Firesetter

Most likely has a high IQ but suffers from academic and behavioral problems, and possibly a history of medical and/or psychological disorders. Often times this firesetter has been victim of physical/sexual abuse, and is typically a loner with a life-long fascination with fire.

