

Kids and Fire

What you need to know



1-800-500-8897

Kids are naturally curious about fire. They can get more information about fire from their local fire departments and science teachers. The danger comes when they start to experiment with or mis-use fire.

Fire is more dangerous than ever because of the high number of petroleum based products and building materials used now. Home fires burn faster and hotter than ever before because of these materials.

Most kids get caught starting fires in the home. Kids can be charged with arson; more than half of all National arson arrests are kids under the age of 18.

Parent Safety Tips:

Eliminate access to lighters and matches

Children know where fire starting tools are located in the home. They watch what the adults do very carefully, and they learn by imitating grown up behavior. Use fire responsibly.

Supervise children carefully

Adequate supervision is essential for children of all ages in order to eliminate their mis-use of fire. Parents are often shocked to learn how many fires their child has started before getting caught.

Restrict access to the internet

Technology is a powerful tool. Information about bomb making and how to do tricks with fire are readily available on line. There is dangerous information and explicit media available on dangerous and illegal activities.

Restrict access to other media

Unsupervised access to television commercials, programming and movies can result in children imitating the behavior of grown ups they see. This is how they learn.

Practice Fire Safety

- Teach children that fire is a tool for adults not a toy
- Keep things that are hot away from things that can burn
- Inspect your home for fire safety hazards
- Install and maintain smoke alarms
- Practice your safe escape plan
- Pay attention while cooking

Some signs of children mis-using fire:

- Burned spots in carpeting or grass
- Charring on toys or clothing
- Finding spent matches in the trash basket, under beds
- Finding lighters where you did not leave them
- Aerosol cans in strange places, burned or not
- Candles in children's rooms

If you think your child might be mis-using fire:

Call 1-800-500-8897

For more information

and to be directed to a local team who can help
Before it's too late...



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651-201-7220
www.fire.state.mn.us