



Child Fire Starters

Playing With Fire Can Be Deadly!

Figures compiled by the National Fire Protection Association in the United States show that around 40 per cent of children who perish in home fires actually started the fires themselves. Furthermore, more than 1 out of every eight fatal structure fires was set by a child under the age of 15. Those startling statistics show that child fire starters are a serious threat to themselves and others. But there are ways to address the problem. If your child is playing with fire or shows signs of being overly interested in fire, please call our fire prevention division at 519 882-2020

Why Do Children Start Fires?

Many young children show natural curiosity about fire. It's a good idea to teach them to understand fire and what it can do. Once children know the dangers of playing with fire, they should act accordingly. Some children do not and there are many reasons. Here are some of the danger signs when fire starting behaviour is displayed:

- When a child is upset about upheaval in their life, such as family break-ups or the death of a loved one.
- There is abuse in the household.
- The child is bullied at school.
- Chronic failure, often caused by a learning disability, is displayed.
- The child needs to assert power, while feeling powerless about something beyond their control.

What Can A Parent Do?

- Never leave matches or lighters within view or the reach of children!
- Teach children that fire can be dangerous, to themselves and others.
- Children will mimic your actions so use due caution when working with fire.
- Never leave your children around any source of open flame.
- Store flammable liquids safely and away from children.
- Keep your property free of convenient fuels for arsonists such as brush and rubbish.
- Teach older children to use fire responsibly and to bring matches or lighters to an adult, so younger children can't access them.
- If your child demonstrates fire starter behaviour, get them counseling. There are agencies that can provide help.

Always Remember - Big Fires Start Small!

