

Youthful Firesetter Prevention Program

The Modesto Fire Department offers families help in dealing with child firesetters through the Youthful firesetter Prevention Program.

The mission of the program is to change the Firesetting behavior in children and young adults.

HERE'S HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS...

A representative from the Modesto Fire Department contacts the parents or guardians by telephone and schedules an interview to determine the severity of the firesetting problem.

The representative then meets with the youth to share fire safety information and educate on the consequences of firesetting.

A final meeting is set between the representative, parents/guardians, and youth to provide additional fire prevention education. The representative follows up with a telephone call two to three weeks following the final interview.

A referral may be made to a family counseling agency as needed.

CONTACT

If you would like to obtain more information about the Youth Firesetter Prevention Program, contact:

Modesto Fire Department
Fire Prevention Bureau
1010 Tenth Street, Modesto, CA 95354
(209) 571-5553



MODESTO FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION LOCATIONS

Station #1	610 Eleventh Street
Station #2	629 Second Street
Station #3	635 El Vista Avenue
Station #4	1505 Blue Gum Avenue
Station #5	200 W. Briggsmore Avenue
Station #6	2700 Standiford Avenue
Station #7	1800 Mable Avenue
Station #8	737 Airport Way
Station #9	4025 Fara Biundo Drive
Station #10	148 Imperial Avenue
Station #11	4225 Carver Road
Fire Prevention Administration	1010 Tenth Street 600 Eleventh Street



City of Modesto

FOR EMERGENCIES: CALL 9-1-1

FIRE—POLICE—MEDICAL

Modesto Fire Department

YOUTHFUL FIRESETTER PREVENTION PROGRAM

"We Care"



**Fire Prevention Bureau
1010 Tenth Street
Modesto, CA 95354**

Tel: 209 571-5553

Did you know...?

- 25-50% of all fires are intentionally set.
- 300 Children each year die and 4,000 are injured in juvenile related fires.
- National Fire Protection Association estimates 35-40% of all arson fires are set by juveniles.
- As an ignition source, lighters account for 44% of all juvenile started fires, matches are 31%.
- Children under 12 set almost half of all structural fires.



Why juveniles start fires...

All children are curious about fire. This curiosity is normal and healthy. However, children who become firesetters usually have underlying problems which need to be addressed. Typically, they will not stop on their own without intervention. Whatever the motivation for the firesetter, tragedies can and do occur.



What are the signs...?

CURIOUS FIRESSETTER

The "curious firesetter" is interested in matches or lighters, has a fascination with fire, is very curious about the environment, is determined to learn about it and does not understand the consequences of fire.

The fires they set are usually started with matches or lighters using ordinary and available materials like paper, cloth or carpeting. They are often in "hidden" locations like a closet or under beds.



CRYING FOR HELP FIRESSETTER

This firesetter sets numerous fires and often continues to set fires despite punishment. The child usually has trouble in school, is hyperactive, impulsive or destructive, may lie or steal and may have attention deficit disorder.

Any child can be a potential firesetter. Curiosity about fire is part of a child's growing process, especially between the ages of 3 and 9. The majority of fires set by children are set out of curiosity or experimentation. Firesetting behavior in some children is a way of expressing feelings of frustration, unhappiness and need. They may be angry over changes in the home or at school, and will use fire to get the attention they need.

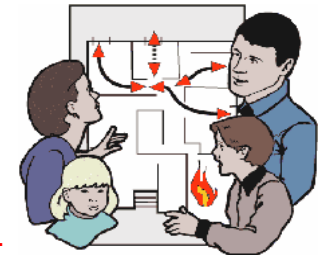
What can you do...?

If you discover evidence of matchplay or notice an unusual attraction to flame, don't try to frighten or scare your child. Don't punish your child for his or her natural curiosity. Instead, talk to your child in a calm, assured manner, explaining your worry for their safety. Teach your child about fire as a tool not a toy. Control your child's access to fire and most of all, set a good example.

FIRE SAFETY CHECK LIST

You can be prepared in the event of a fire emergency by following these guidelines.

- ✓ Install and maintain smoke detectors.
- ✓ Develop and practice a home escape plan, and select a place outside for everyone to meet after leaving the house.
- ✓ Plan two exits from every room in your home.
- ✓ Crawl low under smoke.
- ✓ If your clothes are on fire, don't panic -STOP, DROP, and ROLL.
- ✓ Do not re-enter a burning building.
- ✓ Call the fire department from a neighbor's house.



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