

# YOUTH FIRESETTER INTERVENTION



## WE CAN HELP

- Have you ever found your child playing with matches or lighters?
- Does your child have an unusual fascination with fire?
- Has your child ever been involved in intentionally or unintentionally starting a fire?
- Does your child ask questions about fire that you find difficult to answer?

If you answered “**yes**” to any of these questions, contact the Oklahoma City Fire Department Public Education Section at **(405) 297-3318** and ask for a member of our Youth Firesetter Intervention Program.

## WHY YOUTH SET FIRES

There are many motives and factors influencing youth firesetting. Some children set fires out of curiosity, thrill-seeking, as a cry for help, with willful intent to cause destruction, or due to mental or emotional disorders. Children do not often fully realize the destructive power of fire. Although curiosity with fire is normal, setting fires should not be considered “normal” behavior.

Youth may have easy access to lighters or matches, lack supervision, or lack fire safety training. Many youth have easy access to examples of unhealthy fire behaviors on the internet. These are all issues that we can work with your family on.

## **EDUCATION IS THE ANSWER**

We have Fire Officers on staff that are trained to help. These Fire Officers are trained according to National Fire Protection Association 1035 – Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist I and II. We will speak with you and your child in a confidential environment. Intervention and education are free, nonpunitive, comprehensive, and effective.

Please call us today for more information. Remember, curiosity can lead to deadly consequences.

**Oklahoma City Fire Department**  
**Youth FireSetter Intervention Program**  
**(405) 297-3318**