



*Children playing with fire is a very dangerous behavior that should not be ignored.*

### **FIRE FACTS**

The National Fire Protection Association reports that youth cause 56,300 fires, 880 injuries, 110 deaths, and \$286 million in property damage each year in the United States. These numbers likely underestimate the problem as many events go unreported.

### **BURN STATISTICS**

3,390 fire and burn related deaths per year

334 children ages 19 and under died from fires from burn injury in 2013

486,000 burn injuries received medical treatment

40,000 hospitalizations related to burn injury

## **Mission Statement**

San Francisco's Youth Firesetter Prevention and Intervention Program is dedicated to providing the highest quality of fire education, awareness and rehabilitative services to the community and is committed to reducing injury, death, and loss of property due to misuse of fire by youths. This is accomplished through networking with support agencies, counseling, educating family, friends and the public.

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Arson Task Force**

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**SAN FRANCISCO  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**



**YOUTH  
FIRESETTER  
PREVENTION  
AND  
INTERVENTION  
PROGRAM**



## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- Our program consists of three sessions
- Interviews with parent(s); guardian(s); and youth
- Discuss fire and burn safety that will directly benefit the youth and their family; homework will be assigned
- Cover the consequences of fire setting; guest speaker; Certificate of successful completion

## WRAP AROUND SERVICES

- SFPD School Resource Officer
- San Francisco Unified School District
- District Attorney
- Juvenile Justice Center
- Mental Behavioral Health
- Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation
- Truancy Assessment & Resource Center (TARC)
- Huckleberry Community Assessment & Resource Center (CARC)



## FAMILY FIRE SAFETY

Firesetting is not a phase.

Teach children from a young age that fire is a tool for adults – not a toy!

Keep matches and lighters out of reach in high locked cabinets.

Plan and practice a home escape route. Know at least two exits from each room in case one exit is blocked.

Conduct a home fire safety review with a checklist

Install smoke detectors in each bedroom and on every level of your home.



*Sometimes children start fires because they are curious about what will happen or because they are bored. But firesetting can be a call for help; perhaps there is a crisis in their life.*

*We can refer families to appropriate intervention strategies for the child.*

## POSSIBLE WARNING SIGNS THAT A CHILD NEEDS HELP

- Social withdrawal from friends
- Loss of interest in activities they previously enjoyed
- Changes in school performance; poor grades despite hard effort
- Frequent outbursts of anger
- Prolonged irritability, sadness or negative mood
- Inability to cope with problems and daily activities
- Thoughts of suicide or death
- Use of substances (alcohol, illicit drugs, misuse of prescription and/or over-the-counter medications)