

Why do Children and Adolescents Set Fires?

Most experts agree the best way to understand why children or adolescents set fires is to look at the motivations for firesetting. Motives can include:

- Curiosity or experimentation
- A cry for help
- Thrill seeking
- Peer pressure
- Intent to cause destruction
- Behavioral and emotional disorders

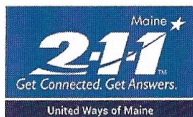
While curiosity about fire is common, firesetting is NOT- It is quite dangerous and deadly

What To Do If You Suspect Your Child Is Setting Fires

If your child is displaying firesetting behavior, you and your family are at higher risk for suffering the consequences of a fire. Remember, you are not the only parent to face this problem.

If you discover evidence of a fire set by your child, or your child talks about setting fires, or is curious about fire; contact your local fire department or contact us at 207-459-2463 for help.

Find Us On Facebook
www.facebook.com/YCJFSIC



Getting Help

Contact Your Local Fire Department or the York County Juvenile Fire Safety Intervention Collaborative at: **(207) 459-2463**

The York County Juvenile Fire Safety and Intervention Collaborative is a partnership between local public and private partners who are working together for the safety of York County communities

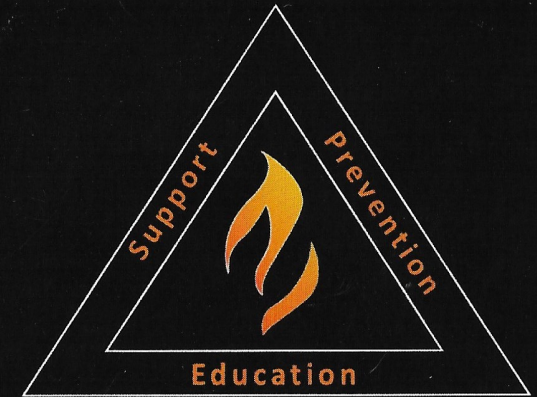
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- Ogunquit
- Parsonfield
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- Sanford
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- Waterboro
- Wells
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York County Juvenile Fire Safety & Intervention Collaborative

A Program of York County Emergency Management Agency



York County Juvenile Fire Safety & Intervention Collaborative



Child and Youth Firesetting

What You Can Do To Keep Your Community and Family Safe

149 Jordan Springs Road

Alfred, Maine 04002

Phone: 207-459-2463 Fax: 207-324-4997

The Problem

Nationally, more than half of all intentionally set fires are started by youths under the age of 18. When a child or adolescent sets a fire and receives no intervention, there is a better than 50% chance he or she will set a second fire. If, in fact, a second fire is set, the chances are better than 80% that the firesetting will continue.

Fires set by children are common and a problem affecting many families. While curiosity about fire is natural, firesetting is dangerous and deadly. It is not safe to think of firesetting as a "phase".



Our Program

The mission of the York County Juvenile Fire Safety & Intervention program is to protect our communities from the dangers of child and youth firesetting through assessment, education intervention, collaboration with local public & private agencies, and referrals to community agencies as needed

Factors Influencing Firesetting

Easy access to matches and lighters

Children and teens know where to find lighters and matches in the home- even if you think you have them safety stored



Lack of Supervision

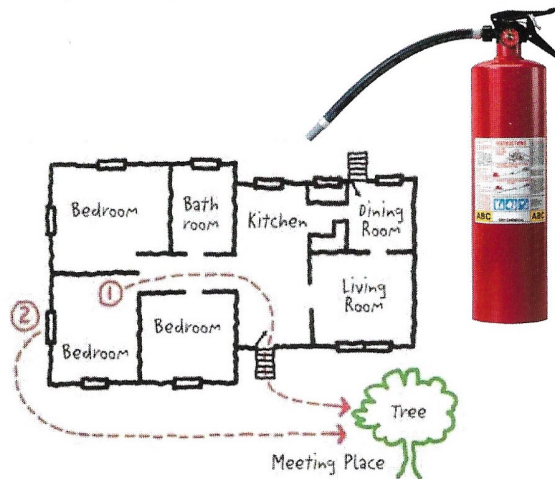
Consistent supervision by adults decreases the opportunity to set fires

Failure to practice fire safety in the home

Young children, teens and adults often lack the understanding of the dangers associated with firesetting and safety rules around fire.

Easy access to information on the internet

Technology has made explicit media available to youths about a number of dangerous and often illegal activities for them to try and replicate.



Fire Prevention Tips

1. Regularly Inspect Your Home for Fire Hazards
2. Install Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms
3. Develop and Practice a Home Fire Escape Plan

What You Can Do To Reduce Firesetting

Keep matches and lighters out of sight and out of reach including child resistant lighters. A child resistant lighter is not child proof, not even for a two years old

Teach children of all ages that fire, even small ones can spread quickly.

Set a good example for your children Children learn by watching and imitating adults. What you DO is more important that what you TELL a child.

Teach older children the proper techniques for using fire with supervision.

Never leave a child unattended in a room with a lit candle. Don't allow teens to have lit candles in their bedrooms.

Talk to your children and adolescents about the legal consequences of firesetting. Find out more about the laws in Maine by going to the State Fire Marshal's Website:

www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/laws/

