



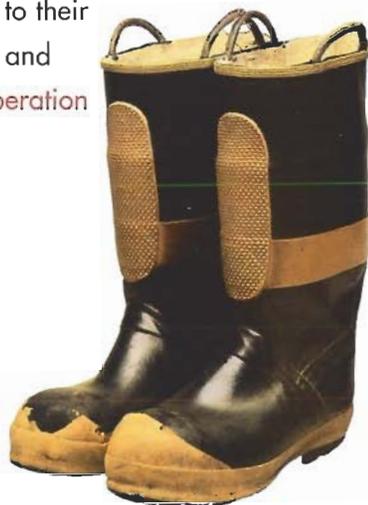
we can help

call today

Curiosity
is normal...

Each fire that a child sets is one too many. Fire is not child's play, nor should it be passed off as idle curiosity. The destructive power of fire is immense and life threatening. Not only are children at risk, but their families, schoolmates, homes and neighborhoods are also in danger.

Intervention and education through **Operation FireSAFE** is non-punitive, comprehensive and effective. If you know of a child who may be at risk, you should talk to their parents or guardian and urge them to call **Operation FireSAFE** today.



Are you concerned about a child who has a fascination with fire? Act today by calling your local fire department.

Community fire departments in the Central Oklahoma region that participate in the **Operation FireSAFE** program can help. Call the number below today to schedule an appointment.



Operation FireSAFE
Association of Central
Oklahoma Governments

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Operation FireSAFE

...but some curiosities

can be deadly.

Curiosity with fire is normal among children. But setting fires should not be considered "normal" behavior. Children who play with fire or set fires may not fully realize its destructive power. Children start over half of the intentionally set fires in Central Oklahoma. These fires cause thousands of dollars in property damage and can injure and kill. Firesetting may be a sign that a child has behavioral or emotional problems which treatment can resolve.

education is the answer

Fire departments across the Central Oklahoma region operate a program that educates children and their families on the dangers of firesetting. Since 1992, Operation FireSAFE has educated and counseled thousands of children.



Firefighters that are trained in the nationally recognized program will talk to the child and the child's guardian or parent in a confidential environment that stresses education and solutions.

Partners in Operation FireSAFE collaborate with a network of community professionals who are trained to evaluate firesetting behaviors and make recommendations on appropriate treatments. Often, one meeting is enough to establish a child's lifetime respect and recognition of the danger of fire. Sometimes, more thorough interaction with a mental health professional may be part of recommended treatment for healthier and more beneficial behaviors. The program is free, unless this additional professional help becomes necessary.



identifying the problem

Children who have been educated through the Operation FireSAFE program come from many walks of life. Curiosity about fire is something that affects a large percentage of children. While young boys typically show a stronger interest in fire, girls are also susceptible. Operation FireSAFE has interviewed children as young as two years old and as old as 18.

There is no typical profile of a juvenile firesetter, nor do all children fit into "categories." But there are signs and events that can influence a child's curiosity with fire or indicate that the curiosity could escalate:

- Have you ever caught the child setting a fire?
- Are matches and lighters readily accessible, and are any missing?
- Does the child seem unusually fascinated by fire when it is present, such as a fireplace, candle or an outdoor grill?
- Does the child experience extreme mood swings or violent outbursts?
- Has the child experienced a recent change, such as parent divorce, a move to a new school, or a new living situation?

