

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

1. The Initial Interview will be conducted with the parents and the child. This interview will take place at the Fire Station.
2. Some children may require referral for further assistance such as counseling. Fire Fighters will provide suggestions to the parents as to how to find these services.
3. Education will be provided. The three priorities of fire safety that will be covered.
  - *Prevention, before a fire starts*
  - *Persuasion, encourages others to be safe*
  - *Protection, when a fire occurs*
4. Time frame for classes will depend upon the individual child situation.
  - *Average will be 3-6 sessions.*
  - Fewer for curiosity fire setters.
  - More for problem fire setters.
5. Parents are encouraged to participate in the education process with their child.

## PLAY IT SAFE!

Be smart and don't start fires because in the end you will get burned.

## Juvenile Fire Prevention Task Force

**Lancaster Fire Department**  
Fairfield County Job and Family Services  
Fairfield County Sheriff Office  
Fairfield Medical Center  
Lancaster City Schools  
Lancaster Police Department  
New Horizon Youth & Family Center  
Mid-Ohio Counseling Center Inc.

Donated By:  
Document Solutions/Xerox of Lancaster

## Juvenile Fire Setters Prevention Program

## Lancaster City Fire Department



Fire Prevention  
1596 East Main Street  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
(740)-687-6640

## FACTS ABOUT Juvenile Fire Setters

In a typical year in the United States, 300 people are killed and \$190 million in property is destroyed in fires set by children. Children themselves are usually the victims of these fires accounting for 85 of every 100 lives lost.

The number of fires set by children is growing. This problem needs the attention of parents, teachers, counselors and community leaders, in cooperation with fire and law enforcement officers. There are basically two types of juvenile fire setters.

1. **Curiosity Fire Setters** are usually children from the age 2-7 who are fascinated with fire and leads them to "play." They typically do not understand the how destructive fire can be.

2. **Problem Fire Setters** are typically between the ages for 5-17. Many times the behavior of fire setting is linked to other emotional or mental disturbance. The following are a few examples that could trigger fire setting behavior.

- A. Moving to a new area.
- B. Family member's divorce.
- C. Death of a friend or family member.



## WHAT CAN YOU DO!

### PARENTS

- ◆ Teach your children about fire
- ◆ Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children
- ◆ Teach your children to show you any unattended matches or lighters they find
- ◆ Never leave stove or candle fires unattended
- ◆ Install and maintain smoke detectors and fire extinguishers
- ◆ Plan and practice home fire escape drills
- ◆ Regularly inspect your home for fire hazards
- ◆ Never allow anyone to use lighters or matches in an unsafe manner.
- ◆ Be a good role model by following all the safety rules



### COMMUNITY

- ◆ Teach fire safety in pre-school through high-school programs
- ◆ Participate in training to learn about juvenile fire setters
- ◆ Help raise awareness in your community about juvenile fire setters
- ◆ Be alert to children behavior
- ◆ Provide timely and appropriate referrals

## WHEN TO SEEK HELP

Parents, Teachers, Counselors and Community Leaders should refer juveniles for help in the following situations.

- Any child that they suspect of setting fires.
- Any child where there has been evidence found that there has been fire play.
- Any child that does not respond to redirecting or teaching of the dangers associated with fire play.



## Where to Go for Help?

1. Contact the Lancaster Fire Department with any questions or concerns.
2. Set-up an appointment by calling 740-687-6640.
3. Visit the Fire Station at 1596 East Main Street, Lancaster, Ohio.