Youth Firesetting Prevention

DO

- Instruct children to notify an adult if they see lighters or matches unattended
- Keep accelerants, such as gasoline and propane, outside the home and locked up
- Keep lighters away from children. Child-resistant lighters are not child-proof
- Set a good example by using matches, lighters and other fire sources in a safe and careful manner

DON’T

- Leave candles unattended in the home; consider flameless, fire-safe alternatives
- Give children tasks that require the use of matches or lighters (helping light a BBQ, fireplace, etc.)
- Leave children unattended near BBQ grills, fireworks, fireplaces, candles, bonfires or fire pits
- Forget to educate children in an age-appropriate manner about the dangers of fire play

THE FACTS

✓ In many states, parents are held legally and financially responsible for their child’s fire misuse
✓ About 40% of the fires that kill young children less than 5 years old are started by kids “playing” with fire (NFPA 2005)
✓ Each year, children “playing” with fire cause on average 56,300 fires, 110 deaths and 880 civilian injuries (NFPA 2011)

THE FIX

If a burn injury does happen...

1) Cool the burn with COOL (not cold) water to stop the burning process
2) Remove all clothing and jewelry from the injured area
3) Cover the area with a clean sheet or loose bandages
4) Seek medical attention

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