

# **YOUTH FIRESETER FACTS!**

*Children, almost always under the false impression they can control the fires they set, cause nearly 80,000 structure fires per year.*

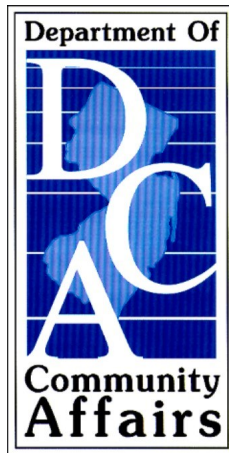
*This results in 760 deaths, more than 3,500 injuries, and costs an estimated \$1.2 billion in damage annually.*

*Fortunately, professionals have developed youth specific firesetting treatment programs, which have over a 95% success rate.*

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Fire Safety Commission  
Youth Firesetter Advisory Council.  
Kathleen O'Leary Chair*



Richard Mikutsky  
Director



Lt. Governor Shelia Y. Oliver  
Commissioner

# **YOUTH FIRESETTING**



# **AWARENESS**

## *signs to look for...*

- *An unusual interest in fire.*
- *Questions about how things burn.*
- *Matches, lighters found in pockets or hidden.*
- *Unexplained discovery of charred items both inside and outside the home.*
- *Remnants of small fires on your property*



**YOUTH FIRESETTER HOTLINE**

**1-800-357-5230**

# **WHY DO CHILDREN SET FIRES?**

## CURIOSITY-EXPERIMENTAL

- *Boys and girls ages 2-10*
- *No concept of destruction fires cause*
- *Access to lighters matches or open flame*
- *Unsupervised, latch key*

## TROUBLED FIRESETTERS

- *Boys and girls of all ages*
- *May have set two or more fires*
- *Expressing extreme emotions*
- *No concept of destruction fires cause*
- *Continue behavior until needs are met*
- *Crisis or Cry for Help firesetters*

## DELIQUENT-CRIMINAL

- *Young adults with a history of intervention*
- *Vandalism, malicious mischief and harmful intent*
- *Targets of opportunity including schools and abandoned buildings*

## EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED

- *Boys and girls of all ages*
- *Arson specific intent and random ritualistic to destroy property*
- *Fire setting history*
- *Behavior continues until apprehension or intervention*