

# Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program

## The Warning Signs

The following is a list of “red flags” or indicators that your child may have a serious firesetting problem. If your child has had more than one incident of fireplay and exhibits one or more of the following warning signs, you are encouraged to seek professional help.

- Recent changes in behavior
- Attention deficits, temper tantrums, mood swings, impulsive behavior or excessive anger
- Problems at school, such as discipline, learning problems or unexplained absences
- Other troublesome behaviors such as stealing, lying and drug or alcohol use
- Deliberate efforts to collect fire materials
- Failed to get help to extinguish fire
- Shows extreme curiosity about fire
- Recent losses due to health, divorce, loss of friendships, moves, etc.
- History of being abused or neglected
- Sad, withdrawn appearance
- Poor self esteem
- Family stresses
- Daydreams about fire
- Boasts about fire sets
- Aggressive behavior toward people or animals
- Behaviors indicating they are a loner, a risk taker or a fighter
- Fire set deliberately to harm others or to destroy property
- Fire set out of anger or in response to a family problem

