

Fire Myths & Facts Youth Fire Intervention

Myth: A child thinks they can control a small fire.

Fact: Every fire starts small. Any fire can get out of control, even one that is controlled and supervised. Remember fire doubles in size every 30 seconds.

Myth: It is normal for children to misuse or "play" with fire.

Fact: It is not normal for children to play with fire, in fact, it's not "playing" at all, it is misusing. Curiosity about fire is common, however, use of fire without a parent's knowledge, and supervision is dangerous and can lead to property loss, injury, and death.

Myth: Firesetting is a phase that children will outgrow.

Fact: Firesetting is not a phase, just as stealing is not a phase. If a child is not taught fire safety, and is allowed to continue fire misuse, the firesetting can easily get out of control and disastrous consequences can result.

Myth: Some children are obsessed with fire.

Fact: Very few children are obsessed with fire. There is always a reason behind firesetting behavior. To stop firesetting behavior, the reason needs to be identified and the issue/s addressed through education and or counseling.

Myth: If I burn my child's hand he/she will learn that fire is hot and burns hurt. He/she will then stop fire experimentation or firesetting.

Fact: Purposely burning your child's hand is child abuse and is against the law. It also does not work to educate the child.