

Home Fire Safety Plan for Youths Misusing Fire

While following these guidelines will increase the safety in the home, they may not eliminate all fire risks and are not a substitute for caregiver supervision.

Fire Prevention Measures

- Install smoke alarms in the youth's bedroom, closet, hallways and common living areas. Do this immediately.
 - Check every month to see if the smoke alarm is working.
- Install fire extinguishers on every level of the house, near youth's bedroom and kitchen.
- Remove all matches from the home or keep in a locked cabinet.
- Deny availability of lighters. Smokers should use only child-resistant lighters and keep them on their person or locked in a cabinet. Keep barbecue lighters in a locked cabinet.
- Empty ashtrays in a metal container before going to bed.
- Store all flammable chemicals such as turpentine, paint thinner, gasoline, lighter fluid, or charcoal starter fluid in a locked cabinet.
- Remove all flammable aerosol sprays (i.e. hairspray, AXE and other deodorant spray) and replace with non-pressurized sprays.
- Remove closet doors to avoid a hiding place.
- Increase supervision for firesetting youths. Do not let them alone or unsupervised in other youths' homes where matches and lighters may be easily available.
- Prohibit use of incense, candles and cigarettes.

Family Safety Rules

- Set firm rules that youths are not to touch matches, lighters, the stove, barbecue lighters, flares, fireworks, or any other object that could potentially set a fire.
- Forbid youths from touching cigarettes and cigarette butts.
- Instruct youths to tell you immediately if they find lighters or matches. Youth with firesetting behavior should never be told to pick them up and give them to the parent or caregiver.
- Forbid youth to watch shows, play videos or access internet sites with provocative fire themes or that show firesetting behavior.
- Inform youth that you will engage in randomly scheduled searches of their pockets, backpacks and room to search for caches of matches and lighters and conduct regular searches.
- Monitor internet sites (YouTube, Facebook, MySpace, etc...) for indicators of youths fascination with fire/explosives.
- Inform youth of these fire safety rules and decide on the consequences for breaking them. Discuss the rules and consequences with your youth to check for understanding.
- Give permission to all children in the home to tell on someone who is engaging in the misuse of fire.
- Never threaten to punish a youth with fire to demonstrate the danger of fire.
- Establish a rule that only an adult can start a fire in the burn barrel, pellet stove, wood stove, campfire or fireplace.

Fire Education

- Make and practice a fire escape plan with a designated meeting place with your family.
- Teach youths basic fire safety behaviors such as stop, drop and roll, crawl low in smoke and how to call 911.
- Contact your local fire department or the Office of State Fire Marshal for basic fire education for your family.

Removing the risk today prevents the fires of tomorrow.



Provided by the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention Program