



Who We Are

About Us

The Winter Haven Fire Department is committed to fire safety and injury prevention and offers education on numerous related topics. For more information, please contact the Fire Prevention Division @ [863-291-5693](tel:863-291-5693).

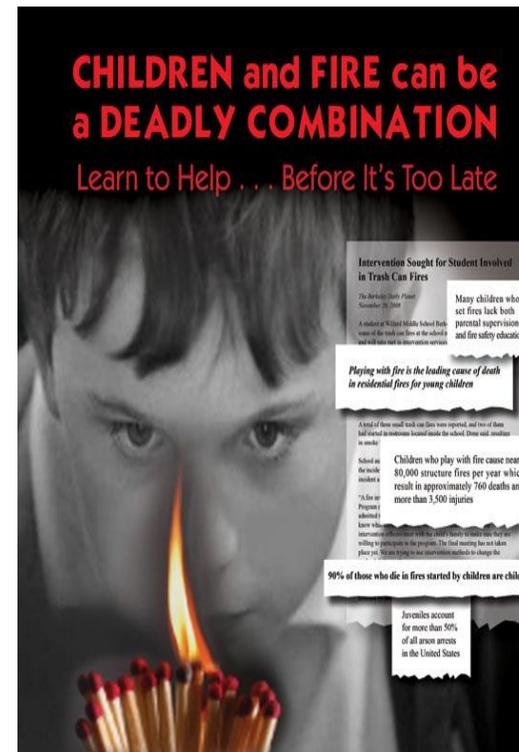
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

- The NFPA recently contracted with the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy to study the best way to communicate safety messages to children 4-16 years old. The study found that videos featuring positively framed messages are more effective than negatively framed messages and that when parents discuss media content with their children, the children learn more.
- The Winter Haven Fire Department's diversion program is a family oriented program. Participants are encouraged to bring all family members living within the home as well as those that have an active role in the child's life.



Winter Have Fire Department
Youth Fire Stoppers Program

Source: National Fire Academy Association,
www.nfpa.org. Playing with Fire Fact Sheet 2007-2011.



Winter Have Fire Department Youth Fire Stoppers Program

AN EDUCATION PROGRAM
HOSTED BY THE

**WINTER HAVEN
FIRE DEPARTMENT**



WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE DIVERSION PROGRAM?

The Winter Haven Fire Department offers the Youth Fire Stopper course to first time offenders that have been charged with a crime related to fire play, as well as families who have found their children playing with fire or have concerns relating to fire play. This course covers the dangers of fire, consequences of fire play, and how fire can be used as a tool as well as fire safety for the entire family.

FIRESSETTERS: WHO & WHY?

CURIOSITY FIRESSETTER

Likely an active child that is a hands-on (tactile) learner. The child may try to experiment with matches and lighters, but is rarely aware of the destructive nature of fire.

CRISIS FIRESSETTER

A psychologically-stressed child may experience feelings of powerlessness. Lacking the appropriate coping or problem-solving skills, they may set fires to act out their anger or as a cry for help.

THRILL-SEEKING FIRESSETTER

A risk-taking youth whom sets fires, often under peer influence. Enjoys attention-getting behavior that may copy video games or internet videos.

In the United States, children are responsible for 54% of all purposefully set fires.

DELINQUENT FIRESSETTER

The child is old enough to know the danger of fire and may even have the intent to injure or kill. Fires set at this stage are often considered a criminal act, so the youth may already be in the juvenile justice system, but overall still regards such consequences as a joke.

DISTURBED FIRESSETTER

Most likely has a high IQ but suffers from academic and behavioral problems, and possibly a history of medical and/or psychological disorders. Often a victim of physical/sexual abuse, typically a loner with a life-long fascination with fire.



Fires started by play accounted for an average of 49,300 fires which caused:

80 civilian deaths
860 civilian injuries
\$235 million in property damage

One in seven deaths are due to purposefully set fires set by a child under 15 years of age.
