

Advice for Parents/Carers

- Make sure matches and lighters are stored out of sight and reach of children and young people.
- Never leave children alone in the house, even for short periods of time.
- Search for lighters and/or matches in bedrooms and school bags.
- Keep outbuildings, garden sheds and garages locked to prevent access to flammable items.
- Explain to the child or young person that fire is a tool, not a toy.
- Explain to children that fires can hurt and kill.
- Make sure the home is fitted with smoke alarms. A smoke alarm will quickly alert you to any firesetting activity.
- Make a home fire safety plan with your family and practice it.
- Ask about receiving a FREE home safety visit from Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service.



How to make a referral

If you think the problem is serious or you cannot deal with it on your own – seek help.

Getting help is easy, free and confidential, please contact Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service:

Visit our website at www.dsfire.gov.uk and click on the



logo, complete the form and we will do the rest. All details will be kept confidential.

Email: firesetters@dsfire.gov.uk

Tel: **Office hours (Mon-Fri 9-5)**
01392 872315 (Somerset area)
01392 872357 (Devon area)

Or write to us at:

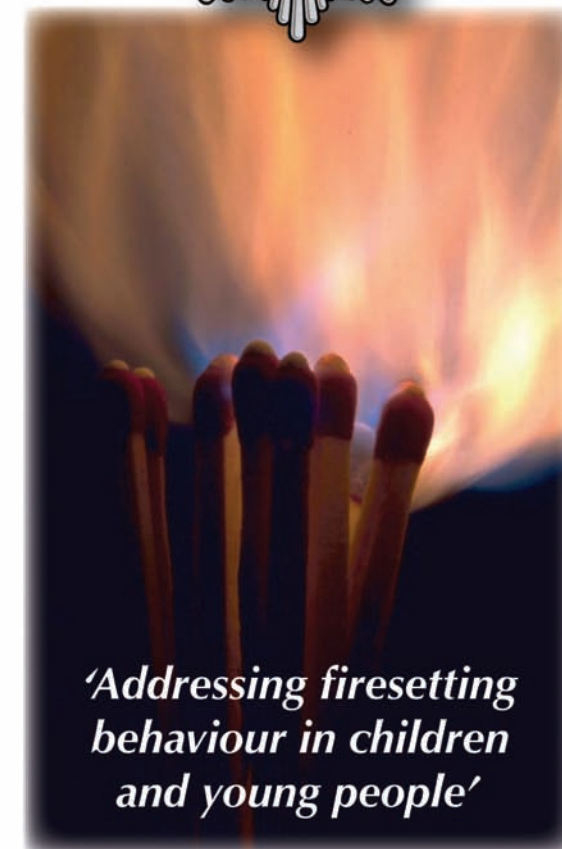
Service Headquarters
The Knowle
Clyst St George
EXETER
Devon, EX3 0NW

We will acknowledge receipt of each referral within 2 working days.



ACTING TO PROTECT AND SAVE

DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



*'Addressing firesetting
behaviour in children
and young people'*



ACTING TO PROTECT AND SAVE

Why?

Most children show a natural interest and curiosity in fire.

Even if they do not display any firesetting behaviour, many children may be fascinated by fire – the glow from a real flame, blowing out their birthday candles, or even watching an adult light up a cigarette. It is not uncommon for children as young as two years of age to show an interest in fire. However, for some young people this interest develops into something more dangerous.

Without help and guidance, firesetting behaviour can become increasingly serious and lead to injury, damage to property and tragically, death.

Please read this leaflet and act on its advice. You could reduce the chances of your child starting a destructive fire.

What the programme does

The aim of the programme is to help children and young people understand and control the feelings and circumstances that lead them to set fires.



Advisors

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service has a dedicated team of Firesetter Intervention Advisors, who receive some of the most comprehensive training available and, partnered with their Fire Service experience, achieve excellent results.

What is involved?

The first visit by the advisors (they always work in pairs) will be to find out more information about the child or young person involved and to establish a trusting relationship.

The number of visits we make and the precise way in which we deal with the child or young person will vary depending on the circumstances and problems involved. The advisors will be available to answer any questions throughout the process.



Tell-tale signs of regular firesetting

- Small burn holes in carpets, beds and/or furniture
- Charred paper in sinks or wastebaskets
- Matches or lighters hidden in your child's cupboards and drawers or under their bed
- An unusual fascination with fire
- Unexplained fires in your home

Early recognition and confrontation of this behaviour through a Firesetter referral can ensure it does not continue into adulthood.

