



FACT

Parents have a vital role to play in educating their children about fire safety. This is to help ensure that they don't play with fire and potentially injure themselves or others.

Legislative Requirements

- Ensure that all adults in the household know and understand the latest fire safety tips and how to use and maintain smoke alarms, fire blankets and fire extinguishers and how to call Triple Zero (000) in an emergency.
- Maintain adequate supervision of your children.
- Trying to scare children about fire, or what will happen to them, can be counter productive. Remain calm and always be honest and reasonable to children in your response and approach to the issue.
- Understand that receiving a minor burn from fire may not reduce a child's level of interest.
- Be aware that children watch and copy behaviours so set a good example around the home in the way you use heaters, open fires and other heat sources.
- Teach your children that fire is a tool, not a toy and may be useful when used safely and responsibly.
- Encourage young children to tell an adult if they find matches or cigarette lighters and praise them for doing so.
- Any lighters and matches you need to keep should be kept secure especially when there are young children in the home.
- Watch for evidence of fire play such as burns on bedding or clothing, or lighters or matches in their pockets.
- Ensure that your home has sufficient working smoke alarms and consider installing them in all bedrooms / sleeping areas for extra protection.
- Everyone should know what to do if a fire occurs in their home. Take the time to learn about escape plans and remember to include your children in the discussion, planning and practice.
- Teach children fire survival skills such as "Get Down Low and Go, Go, go!"

Children are often unaware that a tiny flame can grow into a dangerous fire. If you have concerns about a child's fire fascination, in NSW dial 1800 600 700.

FURTHER SAFETY TIPS

- Teach older children how to use matches and fire safely, and stress to them the importance of only lighting fires in the presence of adults.
- Be aware that younger children may play with fire in their bedroom.
- When asleep you will not smell smoke and it will in fact put you into a deeper sleep.

Education about fire and all the consequences of lighting fires may help to stop or reduce the dangerous behaviour. Children aged 10-16 are usually unaware that they may face charges relating to malicious fires. Visit www.fire.nsw.gov.au for further information.