



LET'S TALK FIRE SAFETY

Valdosta Fire Department

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Young Firesetters

Firesetter Facts:

Between 2007 and 2011, an average of 49,300 fires involving playing with fire were reported to U.S. municipal fire departments per year.

These fires caused annual averages of 80 civilian deaths, 860 civilian injuries, and \$235 million in property damage.

Preschoolers and kindergartners are most likely to start these fires, typically by playing with matches and lighters; and are most likely to die in them.

Younger children were more likely to set fires in homes, while older children and teenagers are more likely to set fires outside.

Males were more likely to engage in fire-play than females, as 83% of home structure fires and 93% of outside or unclassified fires were set by boys when age was coded as a factor.

39% of home fires involving play began in a bedroom.

Lighters were the heat source in just over half (52%) of fires in homes involving play



Safety Tips

- Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, up high, preferably in a locked cabinet or container.
- Never use lighters or matches as a source of amusement for children;

they may imitate you.

- Use only lighters designed with child-resistant features.
- Closely supervise children, making sure that they are kept away from other fire sources, including lit candles, cigarettes, bonfires, and stoves.
- Teach children that they must go tell a grown-up when matches or lighters are found. They are never to touch them.

Always Remember

- Lighters and matches are tools for adults, not toys.
- Fire is fast and can hurt as soon as it touches your skin.

National Fire Protection Association

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Top-causes-of-fire/Young-firesetters>

Solve the Fire Wuzzles

WUZZLES are word puzzles consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, sayings, etc.

For example, the solution to NOON GOOD is "Good afternoon" and LINE READ LINE is "Read between the lines."

<u>DOWN</u>	DO TAKE
LUCK	TAKE

Answers to last month's wuzzles are bread & feeling fall apart

Fire Safety Quiz

1. Children as young as 18 months have been known to set fires.
 - A. True
 - B. False
2. Among fatal home fires started by children, ___ out of ___ involve children igniting bedding, mattresses, upholstered furniture or clothing.
 - A. 3, 5
 - B. 10, 20
 - C. 7, 10
 - D. 8, 11

Answers to last month's quiz are 1. B. & 2. D.

Big or small, fire safety is for all. — Anonymous

Children may express fire interest. They may ask questions such as how hot is fire or show an interest in fire through playing with fire trucks or cooking on a play stove. This is healthy, and it is time to begin educating about fire.

Did you know that the Valdosta Fire Department has a Youth Firesetter Intervention Program that works with families who have experienced youth firesetting? Contact us for more information.

Have a fire safety question you would like for the Fire Department to answer? Please contact Ms. Tangela Rowe at 229-333-1835 or you can send an email to: valdostafire@valdostacity.com



Freddie D. Broome, Fire Chief