



LET'S TALK FIRE SAFETY

Valdosta Fire Department

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Children & Fire Safety

Quick Facts:

Fires started by play accounted for an average of 49,300 fires with associated losses of 80 civilian deaths, 860 civilian injuries and \$235 million in direct property damage per year between 2007 and 2011.

These fires included:

- 21,100 outside or unclassified fires
- 16,300 outside trash or rubbish fires
- 11,100 structure fires
- 800 vehicle fires

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 gender was coded as a factor.

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

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



Safety Tips

- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children, up high, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Closely supervise children, making sure that they are kept away from other fire sources, including lit candles, cigarettes, bonfires, and stoves.
- It is natural for young chil-

dren to be curious and ask questions about fire, play with fire trucks, or pretend to cook.

- Explain that fire moves very fast and can hurt as soon as it touches them. Tell them that this is why matches and lighters are tools for adults only.
- Establish clear rules and consequences about unsupervised and unauthorized uses of fire.
- Be a good example! Always use fire sources — matches, lighters, candles, fireplaces, and campfires — in a safe manner. Never treat them as toys, or children may imitate you.

National Fire Protection Association

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/News-and-Research/Fire-statistics-and-reports/Fact-sheets/ChildrenFactSheet.ashx>

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."

PE	P U T U R T
TA	E
	E
	F

Answers to last month's wuzzles are To make a long story short and close quarters.

Fire Safety Quiz

- Parents should practice fire drills at home to make sure that everyone knows what to do in the event of a fire.
 - True
 - False
- Working smoke alarms save lives. Smoke alarms should be replaced every _____ years.
 - 3
 - 5
 - 6
 - 10

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

Don't wait until October to practice fire safety with your children.

Understand that children and fire are a deadly combination. If you suspect a child is unusually interested in fire or is setting fires, take immediate action.

The Valdosta Fire department has a Youth Fire-setter Intervention program that is designed to help rather than punish. Please contact us for help with children that you suspect might be setting fires.

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



Brian S. Boutwell, Fire Chief