what keeps
taking the lives
of our children?

children and fire

A LETHAL MIX

Juvenile firesetting has been identified as the fastest growing fire threat in the United States. Annual statistics show that children setting fires results in tens of thousands of fires, hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries, and hundreds of millions of dollars in property damage.

The victims of the incidents are often the children themselves

The majority of all fatalities in child set fires are children age 5 and under. More than half of arson arrests in the United States are juveniles.

Juvenile firesetting can occur anywhere.

Young children often set fires in familiar areas, like around the home and/or play area, while older children often venture out to areas like school, bus stops, or vacant properties.

The reasons youth set fires are broad

Most children are curious and have a fascination with fire but no intent to cause harm. These children typically have:

- The false impression that they can control the fire
- Limited fire safety education
- Inadequate supervision (parental or otherwise)
- Easy access to ignition materials

While some encounter crises, or have disturbances that trigger the behavior, reasons and warning signs vary greatly.

Potential warning signs to be aware of

- Unusual fascination with or conversations regarding fire or burning
- Charred paper in sinks or wastebaskets
- Small burn holes in carpets or furniture
- Matches or lighters hidden in your child's closet or under his bed
- Fires of unknown origin found in or around your home

prevent tragedy

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