



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub  
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru  
Mid and West Wales  
Fire and Rescue Service



# FIRESETTING

## Advice for Agencies Working with Children & Young People

This booklet is designed to give guidance to professionals who may be concerned about a child or young person playing with or lighting fires.



Free Safe & Well Visits:  
Telephone: 0800 169 1234

## **ADVICE FOR AGENCIES WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

If you have concerns about fire setting behaviour displayed by children follow the advice in this booklet.

### **IMPORTANT ADVICE TO GIVE TO PARENTS**

- Make sure lighters and matches kept in the home 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.
- Never assume toddlers or infants are incapable of lighting a match or lighter – better to be safe than sorry.
- Search for lighters and matches in clothes, bedrooms and school bags.
- Check for signs of fire setting such as burn marks on carpets, beds and furniture – particularly in their bedroom.
- Explain that fire is dangerous and only adults should deal with it.
- Don't keep flammable liquids in the house and keep outbuildings, garden sheds and garages locked to prevent access to flammable liquids.
- Ensure your home is fitted with at least one working smoke alarm on each floor level. Test smoke alarms at least once a week. **For a free Safe and Well visit please call 0800 169 1234 or email [saw@mawwfire.gov.uk](mailto:saw@mawwfire.gov.uk).**
- Make a home fire safety plan with your family and practice it (details of where to get fire safety information can be found at the back of this booklet).

### **WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?**

- You may notice them playing with matches and lighters or they may be hidden in their pockets or bag.
- They may smell of smoke after playing outside. They may express a fascination with fire.
- There are unexplained fires in the home.

## **WHY DO CHILDREN START FIRES?**

Children and young people start to play with fire for various reasons, ranging from natural curiosity to attention seeking or a cry for help.

Without help and guidance fire setting may increase and lead to more serious consequences such as serious personal injury and damage to homes, schools and other properties.

This behaviour needs to be recognised and dealt with appropriately in order to minimise the chances of it happening again.

### **If you suspect a child is playing with fire:**

- Act on the advice given in this leaflet, you could reduce the chances of a child starting a fire.
- If you think the problem is serious or you feel you need help to deal with it then you can call, contact details can be found at the back of this booklet.

## **FIRESETTER INTERVENTION SCHEME**

This scheme offers help from Fire Service personnel who are specially trained to work with children and young people who have demonstrated a worrying interest in fire. The scheme caters for children and young people of any age.

## **WHAT CAN THE FIRE SERVICE DO?**

The scheme offers different programmes of education and advice to children, young people and their families or any agency that might be involved.

The programmes include a Home Visit. FACE programme is usually aimed at very young children and takes place in the home. SAFE programme (4 sessions) and the FIRESAFE programme (10 sessions). Young people who have been caught for Arson usually follow the longer programme; however, the scheme aims to help prevent young people finding themselves in this situation. The sessions for SAFE and FIRESAFE usually take place at a Fire Station and last about an hour.

**All programmes require a responsible adult to be present.**



## Free Safe & Well Visit

Telephone: 0800 169 1234

### FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like more information about the Scheme and the programmes on offer please contact:

#### **The Firesetter Co-ordinator**

Community Safety Headquarters

Lime Grove Ave

Carmarthen SA31 1SP

**Tel: 0370 6060 699**



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Community Safety