



Cynllun Ymyrraeth

GOSODIADAU TÂN

FIRESETTING

Intervention Scheme



FIRESETTING

Advice for Parents and Guardians

Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
De Cymru



South Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

Advice for Parents and Guardians

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

Parents and guardians who have concerns about fire setting behaviour displayed by children should follow the advice in this booklet.

First don't be too alarmed - it can just be a normal part of child development

Read this important advice

Make sure lighters and matches kept in the home are stored out of sight and reach of children and young people.

- Respond appropriately without too harsh discipline.
- Never leave children alone in the house, even for short periods of time.
- Search for lighters and / or matches in clothes, bedrooms and school bags.
- Carry out regular checks for signs of fire setting such as burn marks on carpets, beds and furniture - particularly in their bedroom.
- Explain that fire is not a toy it's a tool for adults to use. Only adults should use it because it's dangerous. Talk about the ways adults use fire, such as cooking, candles and for keeping warm.
- Explain how fires can hurt and kill.

- Don't keep flammable liquids in the house and keep outbuildings, garden sheds and garages locked to prevent access to flammable liquids.
- Make sure the home is fitted with working smoke alarms. One in each room is advisable except the kitchen and bathroom. At least one smoke alarm on each level of the house is a bare minimum.
- Test the smoke alarms weekly by pressing the test button. Maintain by dusting or putting the vacuum nozzle over the sensor during your weekly test.
- Make a home fire safety plan with your family and practice it (details about where to get fire safety information can be found at the back of this booklet)

If a fire happens, warn the rest of the family and

**GET OUT, STAY OUT,
CALL THE FIRE SERVICE OUT!**

What are the signs?

You should become aware quite quickly if your child is repeatedly playing with fire.

Look out for small burn holes in carpets, charred paper in sinks or wastebaskets.

Matches and lighters may be hidden in their cupboards, drawers, under bed or they may know exactly where to get yours from even if you think you have hidden them.

Your child may express a fascination with fire.

You have a fire with unknown cause.

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.

- What should you do if you suspect your child is playing with fire?
- Consider your own actions and how they might influence the behaviour of the children and young people for whom you are responsible.
- Act on the advice given in this leaflet, you could reduce the chances of your child starting a destructive fire.

- If you think the problem is serious or you feel you need help to deal with it then you can call us.

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service has a Firesetting Intervention Scheme.

Firesetting Intervention Scheme (FIS)

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 from the age of 5.

What does the Scheme 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, the SAFE programme (usually 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 the SAFE and FIRESAFE usually take place at a Fire Station and last about an hour.



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Intervention Scheme

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

01443 232407/2416/2436 or 07881671806
or email l-thomas@southwales-fire.gov.uk
or fis@southwales-fire.gov.uk

Community Safety Department
South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters
Forest View Business Park
Llantrisant
CF72 8LX