

## Possible Tips for Fire-Setting You Can Use at Home

### ● 5 Years Old and Under

- Eliminate the mystery of fire and teach your children that fire is dangerous
- Matches, lighters, and any heat-producing appliances should be out of reach
- Teach children to tell an adult if they find matches or a lighter. Reward that behavior

### ● 6 - 12 Years Old

- Take time to teach your child about the destruction of fire
- Set the example for fire safety. Have your child watch how you:
  - Cook: turning pot handles away from reach, never leave a burner unattended
  - Light: the fireplace, barbecue, and candles
- Teach them that these tasks should only be performed by adults or under adult supervision

### ● 13 - 17 Years Old:


- Teach and model conflict and stress management skills
- Involve adolescents in decisions that affect them
- Be available for regular communication and encourage positive relationships between peers and adults
- Provide healthy activities (sports, youth groups or religious organizations)



This program is primarily  
for youth under the age  
of 18

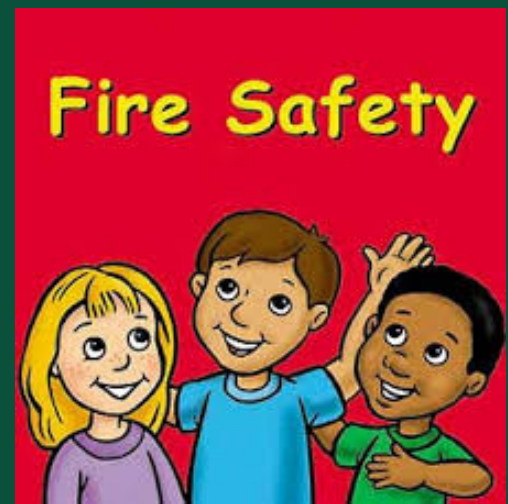
## MORE INFORMATION

Contact Mercer County Youth  
Fire-Setter Intervention  
Program:

 609-278-4845

 [YouthFireSafety@mercercounty.org](mailto:YouthFireSafety@mercercounty.org)

# Mercer County Youth Fire-Setter Intervention Program



# Program Information

- Call if you suspect your child is setting fires or misusing fire.
  - If they are: you and your family are at risk
- You are not the only parent to face this problem. Mercer County provides a FREE youth fire-setting intervention program
- When calling: a pre-intake form will be taken over the phone
  - You will be asked about yourself, your child, and their misuse of fire
- A FREE in home safety check is offered. Home evacuation drills, inspection of smoke detectors, and replacement of faulty detectors will all be covered
- A follow up in-person assessment can be scheduled. This can include:
  - Fire personnel, Children's System of Care(CSOC) workers, clinicians, etc.
  - Upon completion: a written report can be sent to anyone authorized by the guardian including yourself

Assessment determines risk of future fire setting. There are 3 levels:

- I Little Concern
- II Definite Concern
- III Extreme Concern

## Available to Families:

- Evaluate youth and their families to identify needs
- Provide fire safety education
- Help identify other needs (counseling, social services, etc)
- Referrals to community resources

## Additional Facts:

- Youth fire-setter intervention programs are successful in reducing fire-setting behavior
- According to NFPA, without intervention more than 75% of youth who have misused or set fire will do it again

