

Y-FIRES

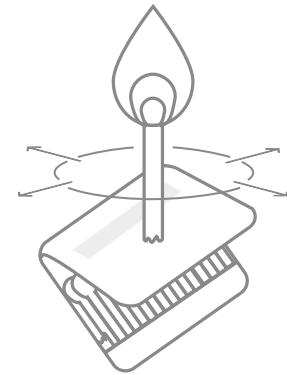
Youth Firesetter Program



The Youth Firesetter Intervention, Referral and Education Service (Y-FIRES) evaluates and educates children and youth who have misused, deliberately started, or whose interest in fire is a concern.

Signs that your child may be "playing with" or misusing fire

- + Your child smells of smoke
- + Your child has burned or singed clothing such as pant cuffs or coat cuffs
- + Your child has singed hair, eyebrows or eyelashes
- + You find matches in the garbage can or toilet
- + You find burned or melted items such as toys, paper or plastic in garbage cans or under furniture
- + Your child has burned fingers or conceals their fingers to hide burned areas



Fire Facts

- + Alberta fire statistics show that approximately 20% of child fire victims died in fires they started themselves.
- + Matches and lighters were used in 70% of the destructive fires started by children.

What you can do to help

- + Locate matches and lighters in your home and dispose of them or place them in a secure area. If you don't know where your matches and lighters are, ask your children... they do!
- + If you smoke, keep the lighter with you at all times and dispose of other lighters. This sends a message to your children that you too are taking steps to be fire safe.
- + Test your smoke alarms monthly as a family to ensure they are working.
- + Talk to your children about what they should do when they find a match or lighter on the street, in a playground or at home. Encourage them to report it to an adult they know – a parent/caregiver, teacher or relative. This gives your children the responsibility they need to take the right actions.
- + Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it as a family.
- + Perform your own home fire inspection to ensure your home is safe.

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED

If your child has misused fire, deliberately started a fire or if you are concerned about your child's interest in fire – please call Edmonton Fire Rescue Services' Fire Prevention Office at 780-496-3628 and ask about Y-FIRES.

Children referred to Y-FIRES attend a single meeting which includes:

- ▣ An interview with both the parent/caregiver and the child/youth
- ▣ An incident overview
- ▣ An educational discussion
- ▣ A video discussion
- ▣ Referral to professional help (when necessary)