

## Tell tale signs of firesetting behaviour:

- Small burn holes in the carpet
- Charred paper in sinks and bins
- Matches or lighters hidden in a child's bedroom
- Unexplainable fires in or around your home.

## Simple steps to a fire safe home:

Early intervention is vital in changing behaviour. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service believes that a child's interest and curiosity about fire must be met with information and education.

- Teach and practice home fire safety together as a family on a regular basis
- Remove fire hazards and temptation from your home
- Keep matches and lighters safely out of reach, preferably locked away
- Never leave children alone in the house.

## Fire safety checklist:

- Install and maintain smoke alarms
- Discuss and implement a home fire escape plan
- Teach your child 'Stop, Drop and Roll' should their clothes catch on fire
- If you have a fire – Get Out – Call the Fire Service Out – Stay Out
- The number to call is 999
- DO NOT RE-ENTER A BURNING BUILDING!

## To refer a child or young person to the Firewise scheme:

Email: [firewise@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:firewise@surreycc.gov.uk)  
Free Phone: 0800 085 0767



**Playing with fire can kill.  
We see the consequences.**

If you know a child who is playing with fire, our free Firewise Scheme can help.

## Should you require any further information about the Community Safety Education initiatives undertaken by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service please contact:

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service  
Croydon Road, Reigate  
Surrey RH2 0EJ

Telephone: 03456 009 009  
Fax: 01737 222857  
Minicom: 020 8541 8914

 [www.surrey-fire.gov.uk](http://www.surrey-fire.gov.uk)

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 Surrey Fire and Rescue Service



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Surrey Fire and Rescue Service recognises that fires started by children and young people, in the home or elsewhere, are a cause for concern. Whether the result of a child's curiosity playing with matches or lighters, the act of a deliberate firesetter or a child's cry for help, every fire can pose a threat to property and life.

Curiosity about fire can be part of a child's growth process and many of the fires started by children are set out of curiosity or experimentation. Potentially, any child could be at risk from playing with fire.

## What is the Firewise Scheme?

Within the scheme, Firewise Advisors work with children, with their parents or carers present, to make them aware of the dangers of fire and potential consequences of their actions.

Through education, the advisors aim to address firesetting behaviour and reduce the likelihood of children playing with fire in the future.

## Why should I make a referral?

These incidents may take place in or around the home or further afield. Without help and guidance from an early stage firesetting behaviour can increase and lead to more serious consequences.

## Who can make a referral?

We accept referrals from parents, carers, schools, police, social services, youth support and other professionals. However we require consent from a parent or carer to work with any child or young person.

## How do I make a referral?

If you have concerns about a child call our free 24 hour number on **0800 085 0767** or email us at **[firewise@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:firewise@surreycc.gov.uk)**

A few basic details will be taken and one of our team will call you back. They will discuss your particular situation and assess what action should be taken.

## What happens next?

Two Firewise Advisors are assigned to each case. The lead advisor will arrange a convenient time and location, usually the home, for a meeting. The advisors will use their training, personal experiences, photographs, DVDs and other educational techniques to demonstrate the dangers and longer term consequences of playing with fire.

## Who are Firewise Advisors?

Most Firewise Advisors are Surrey Fire and Rescue Service personnel who, in addition to their main role, volunteer to undertake the role. All receive specific training to work safely and effectively with children and young people and have received Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance checks to the enhanced level.