



# DON'T PLAY WITH FIRE

Firesetting involves wrongfully using fire, either on purpose or by accident. Sometimes, it might even be considered arson - which is a major crime! Arsonists deliberately set fire to property. And when they're caught, they can be sent to jail and have to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines.



Children cause nearly 80,000 structure fires each year.



Almost half of all deliberately set fires in the country are set by youths under the age of 18.



A single match can set an entire room on fire in 2 minutes and an entire house in 5 minutes.



Children mistakenly believe they can control the fires they set.

## Freedom or Fire?

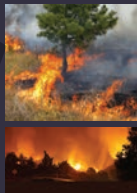
Penalties are becoming stricter for firesetters.

In some cases, juveniles can be tried as adults.

Firesetters who don't go to jail will still have a criminal record that follows them for life.

They may also be sent to a detention center or enrolled in rehabilitation or educational programs under court order.

Some firesetters may require psychological treatment and therapy.



At age 14, Gordon filled a coffee can with gasoline and lit it. The resulting explosion left him with burns on 95% of his body, he is lucky to have survived. He had been a chronic firesetter for years.

### Gordon Pranger – Junior Firesetter / Burn Victim

Gordon started playing with fire as a young child. He nearly burned to death while playing with matches and gasoline when he was 14. He says:

***"I never imagined the disfigurement... the pain... it's amazing how those few seconds changed my entire life."***

## Are You Prepared to Pay the Price?

- Setting fires could cost you your life!
- There are thousands of deaths and injuries every year due to children setting fires.
- The majority of victims of youth firesetting are the children themselves.
- Burns can change lives forever.
- Burn victims will be scarred for life.
- They may also have to endure years of reconstructive surgery as well as physical and psychological therapy.
- Fires also cost people their property, their businesses, and their jobs.

## What Can You Do?

- Don't risk your future – ***don't play with fire!***
- Tell others not to mess around with fire.
- If you find matches or lighters or if you see someone playing with fire, ***tell an adult immediately.***

If You Play With Fire... You **WILL** Get **BURNED!**