



Fascination
with fire
occurs at
all ages.



Fire-play or firesetting can be devastating.
If you have concerns about your child or youth, call
TAPP-C. **We're Here to Help.**

TAPPC

The facts about fire-play

If your child or teenager is involved in fire play or firesetting, you are not alone. Many children and teenagers have a fascination with fire. It is important to understand that while curiosity about fire is natural, fire-play can be dangerous. Unfortunately, many children die or are injured in fires they start themselves.

What is fire-play?

Fire-play can be many things:

- Playing with matches or lighters
- Playing with accelerants, like body sprays or aerosols
- Playing with the toaster, stove or furnace
- Burning items such as toys, paper or garbage
- Setting a fire to destroy something or hurt someone

Things to watch for:

If you notice any of the following, your child may be involved in fire-play:

- Matches or lighters go missing
- Matches or lighters are found among your child's belongings
- There are burn marks on household items or your child's clothing or possessions
- Your child is extremely interested in fire

Help is available

Firesetting presents an enormous risk to children, teenagers, their families and the community.

Fire involvement can be a sign of other problems in a child's life. It can start at any age. Fire-play can start out small and

progress to larger and more serious fires that threaten the safety of the child and the family. It's important that you deal with any fire involvement immediately. **That's where TAPP-C comes in.**

The TAPP-C program

TAPP-C is a program that brings together fire service and counseling professionals to help families deal effectively with children and teens involved in fire-play. The fire service professionals educate children and their families about fire and how to develop good fire safety practices. Counselling professionals assess the risk of continued fire involvement and help children and their families deal with issues that may contribute to the firesetting. TAPP-C is free-of-charge and is available to children from 2 to 17 years of age.

Keep your child safe from fire

You can help protect your child and family from fire by following these fire safety tips:

- Make sure that young children are supervised at all times.
- Keep matches and lighters locked away where children cannot get them.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas. Test them regularly.
- Develop and practise a home fire escape plan.
- Never allow your child to spend time with someone who uses fire in reckless or inappropriate ways.

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