

**W**hat you can do to prevent most Fire-setting incidents:

**T**each very young children that fire is a tool we use to cook food or heat the home. It is not magic. It is dangerous and even adults should only use it carefully.

**K**eep all matches and lighters out of the reach of very young children. Even a 2 year old can easily work a cigarette lighter.

**H**ave children bring matches to you and praise them when they do.

**I**f an older child is curious about matches.

**S**how him or her the proper and safe way to use them. Explain why it is important to use matches only when needed and with an adult present.

**S**et a good example. Always be careful with matches and fire (including candles).

**K**eep your home fire safe and let your children help you identify fire hazards with you, make it a family activity.

## Web Links

[www.usfa.fema.gov/safety](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/safety)

[www.usfa.fema.gov/kids](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/kids)

[www.sosfires.com/arson.html](http://www.sosfires.com/arson.html)

**JUVENILE FIRESETTERS  
HOTLINE:**

**800-357-5230**

## Hunterdon County FireWatch Program



**“F**ireplay is a behavior that should not be dismissed as a phase or curiosity.”

**H**ave you seen these signs?

**F**ire(s) of unknown origin in your home?

**S**mall burn holes in carpets, charred paper in sinks or wastebaskets?

**M**atches or lighters hidden in your child’s closet or under the bed?

**A**n unusual fascination with fires and burning buildings that comes up in the child’s conversation?

**T**he Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Program provides:

**F**ire safety education to children, adolescents and adults.

**A**ddresses the problem of juvenile fire-setting to reduce the number of new fire-sets and recidivism.

**P**rovides a safer community through fire safety education, intervention and prevention.

**U**ses a referral system including but not limited to:

**P**arents, Schools, Family Court, and police and fire departments.

**T**he Hunterdon County FireWatch Program began again in September of 2009. The mission is to reduce fire-setting behaviors in children from early childhood through age 17 using a model that includes: prevention, identification, education and treatment.

**U**sing trained personnel, the child is evaluated using an interview format, the parents complete a questionnaire and the child draws a picture.

**T**he child is then provided with fire prevention education by a trained fire safety official.

**A**ll information is confidential and is shared only when a parent signs a release of information.

**F**irewatch establishes three levels of risk of future firesetting. Level I-little concern-the child's fire setting will most likely be resolved by receiving educational intervention. Level II-definite concern-the behavior was a reaction to some type of stressor or crisis in the child's life. Level III-extreme concern-the child has an immediate need for some type of intervention beyond education, and will require services beyond the scope of the Firewatch Program. A referral for services will be made.

**J**uvenile firesetting can be prevented when parents, teachers, firefighters, law enforcement and all caregivers become aware of firesetting.



**I**f you believe a child may benefit from a firesetting evaluation, please complete the referral form at ([www.co.hunterdon.nj.us](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us)). Choose Department of Public Safety, then choose Firewatch Program )and fax/send information to:

[kgruss@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:kgruss@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

Fax 908-806-5231





# COUNTY OF HUNTERDON

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



GEORGE F. WAGNER  
Director

PO Box 2900  
Flemington, NJ 08822

### FIREWATCH INCIDENT REFERRAL FORM

Referring Person's Name & Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_ Address/Location of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_  
(mm/dd/yyyy)

Investigating Organization & Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

#### YOUTH INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Male / Female  
(circle one)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Fire Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Where Did The Incident Occur? \_\_\_\_\_

What Were The Items Ignited/Source of Ignition?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Were Others Involved in This Incident? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly Describe What Happened:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Office of Communications**  
201 Cherryville Road  
PO Box 2900  
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900  
908-788-1205  
908-782-0051 fax

**Corrections Division**  
71 Park Avenue  
PO Box 2900  
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900  
908-788-1184  
908-788-1298 fax

**Office of Emergency Management**  
201 Cherryville Road  
PO Box 2900  
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900  
908-788-1196  
908-782-0057 fax

**Office of the Fire Marshal**  
9 Petticoat Lane  
Amundale, NJ 08801  
908-638-5622  
908-638-9002 fax

**Youth Services Division**  
Rt. 12 County Complex – Bldg 2  
PO Box 2900  
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900  
908-806-5230  
908-806-5231 fax