

## Don't let your future go up in smoke!

In certain cases, firesetting can be classified as arson.

Arson is defined as the malicious burning of property and is a major crime. Committing arson is a serious offense and can result in prison time and fines for up to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Even if a fire is accidentally set, it can be considered arson. On purpose or by accident, firesetting is dangerous and the consequences are severe.



## Freedom or Fire?

One-third of all people arrested for arson are under the age of 15, and over 55% of all arsonists are 18 and under. That's a lot of kids involved in a single crime. No other crime tracked by the FBI has such a high rate of juvenile involvement and because of increasing juvenile involvement, the penalties are becoming stricter. In some cases, a juvenile can be tried as an adult. Firesetters who do not go to jail will still have a permanent criminal record and may be placed in a detention center, or enrolled in other types of rehabilitative and educational programs. Some firesetters are severely disturbed and may need medical and psychological treatment. Make a decision and choose freedom over fire.

## A High Price To Pay

Everyone pays when there's fire. Are you prepared to pay because it could cost you your life? Thousands of deaths and injuries occur every year due to kids setting fires. Burn related accidents and fires are noted as a leading cause of accidental deaths in children 14 and under. Often times, the victims of firesetting are the firesetters themselves. It only takes seconds for a fire to get out of control.

Burns can change your life forever. Burn victims may endure many years of reconstructive surgery, physical and psychological therapy, in addition to permanent scarring, such as an altered appearance, and possible loss of physical mobility. Many burn survivors have to deal with developing new skills and finding new activities or hobbies, feelings of loneliness, learning how to accept themselves, helping others to cope with their injuries, and re-entering school after lost time.



Fires also cost people their property, their businesses, their jobs, and can increase insurance rates and taxes that affect the whole community.



## What Can You Do?

Don't risk your future. Don't play with fire. And tell others not to mess around with fire either, because it's not worth the risk or the consequences. If you know of, or see someone playing with fire, tell an adult so that the proper help may be obtained for anyone who is involved in firesetting habits. This protects everyone from unnecessary danger.

**Play it safe – be smart  
and don't start any fires  
because in the end**

**YOU WILL  
GET BURNED.**