

# SEATTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT



# FIRE STOPPERS

## Firesetting Intervention Program

**If** your child has played with or set a fire, they need education about fire safety.  
your child has shown an interest or curiosity about fire, they need education about fire safety.  
**FIRE STOPPERS** may be the answer.

### **If your child has misused fire...**

Please don't think the behavior will "go away" or that he will "grow out of it". And please don't think that this issue can be effectively addressed simply by having your child talk to a firefighter or visit a fire station. Even if your child started a fire and feels badly about it, his chances of using fire again are high unless he receives individualized attention from a trained fire safety educator.

***80% of children who start a fire, even unintentionally, may use fire again if they do not receive education from a fire safety educator.***

The Seattle Fire Department offers a free, confidential education program for children who show curiosity about fire or have started a fire. The Fire Stoppers program engages children's interest and is informative for parents. The program involves an assessment of the child's fire safety needs, fun age-appropriate activities individualized to help your child learn about being safe around fire, and information for caregivers on how to keep their whole family safe. For those children who would benefit from additional help, referrals are available for behavioral health services.

### **The Program at a Glance**

The Fire Stoppers program is not a "class", but rather an individualized program to help families address the issue of child fire use. Children are eligible if they live in the City of Seattle, are not

being investigated for a fire related crime, and the child's legal guardian is willing to be present for the entire program.

### **Location**

The Fire Stoppers program is located in the pioneer square offices of the Fire Prevention Division. Appointments (90 minutes) are required, and are available during normal business hours.

### **Program Outline**

The Fire Department intervention team meet in a non-threatening and confidential atmosphere with the youth and family. A brief interview of both child and caregiver provides information from which an individualized education program is developed.

Emphasis is placed on fire behavior, taking personal responsibility for safety, learning good choice making skills, match/lighter safety, legal implications of fire use, and parental roles. Parents are provided with a handbook with detailed information on addressing firesetting behavior. Homework is provided for the child and family to reinforce the concepts introduced during the assessment.

Specific fire safety recommendations are made in the form of a customized fire safety plan provided to each family. Referrals to community services are made when appropriate.

**Fire Stoppers** is a program of the Seattle Fire Department Fire Prevention Division, in cooperation with the Seattle Police Department Arson/Bomb Squad.

**TO CONTACT THE FIRE STOPPERS PROGRAM  
CALL 206-386-1338 DURING BUSINESS HOURS**

**Seattle Fire Department Fire Prevention Division**

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