

## Checklist

### Minimise opportunities for fire play

- Remove temptation  
*Place matches and lighters out of sight to help reduce the desire and opportunity to use them.*
- Family members and visitors have secured their matches/lighters
- Keep track of the matches/lighters you use
- Monitor Internet search history and website usage

### Smoke alarms

- Smoke alarms installed  
*QFES recommend smoke alarms are located in every bedroom, hallways or rooms connecting bedrooms, and if there are no bedrooms on a level, on the most likely path of exit.*  
*visit [www.qfes.qld.gov.au/smokealarms](http://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/smokealarms)*
- Working smoke alarms  
*Check smoke alarms are working by pressing the test button. If no sound emits, check the battery and replace as necessary. Keep them clean of dust and bugs with a vacuum.*

### Escape Plan

- You have a home escape plan  
*Draw an escape plan on a sheet of paper and display it in your home. Try to have two ways out of every room, pick a meeting place outside the home, and practice your plan regularly.*  
*visit [www.qfes.qld.gov.au/firescape/](http://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/firescape/)*
- Practiced home escape plan  
*Smoke can be disorientating, and the sound of an alarm can cause panic. The speed of fire and the toxicity of smoke means you don't have time to think. You are less likely to panic if you have practised your escape plan.*

If you have any concerns about your child's involvement with fire, contact your local fire station, call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or visit [www.qfes.qld.gov.au/fff](http://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/fff)



Helping young people  
develop fire safe skills.

Information for  
parents and carers.





**The Fight Fire Fascination (FFF) Program run by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), is an educational program, linking operational firefighters with children who have displayed a curiosity about fire.**

- » FFF is available to children and young people aged between 3 and 17 who have been involved in at least one concerning fire incident.
- » It is a voluntary program initiated by a parent, caregiver, or a young person able to give consent.
- » It is free and confidential.
- » It is delivered by two carefully selected and trained operational firefighters.
- » It is delivered in the home of the young person.
- » It is an educational program, designed to teach children and young people to respect fire and develop fire safety skills.
- » The program has a carefully designed standard three visit plus celebration structure with the flexibility to respond to the needs and circumstances of each child and family.
- » The program works in partnership with schools, mental health services and other community agencies to ensure children and families get the help they need.

## **Should I be worried about my child's interest in fire?**

Most children will be curious about fire at some stage in their life. However, this curiosity can become risky if it leads to unsupervised play with matches or lighters, lighting fires, or experimenting with homemade bombs and aerosol cans. Sometimes fire play or fire setting can also be a sign that the child is worried about something and may need additional help.

## **What are the warning signs?**

- Finding matches or lighters in your child's room, pockets or bags.
- Burn marks on toys, clothes, under beds or in cubby houses.
- The smell of something burnt.
- Intense interest in, or conversations about, fire.
- Internet searches for fire related topics including homemade bombs.

## **What can I do now?**

You can take immediate action to reduce the risks of fire play by:

- explaining that fire is not a toy, it is a tool used by responsible adults
- teaching young persons to immediately hand matches or lighters to an adult or tell an adult if they see another child playing with matches and lighters
- using the checklist on this brochure to increase your family's safety, and
- contacting QFES to request the FFF program.

## **Does it work?**

More than 90 per cent of the children who complete the FFF program do not continue with unsafe fire behaviour.

## **How do parents describe how FFF has changed their child?**

*"Hasn't touched matches again"*

*"Understands the dangers now"*

*"Respects fire more"*

*"More mature and understands more about fire safety"*

*"Won't touch lighters anymore"*

## **What do parents have to say about the firefighters who visit their homes?**

*"They spoke with the kids in their language"*

*"They were honest and didn't judge. They were friendly and open"*

*"They made my child realise their actions towards other people"*

*"Great information"*

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**If your child is making explosive devices or is igniting aerosol cans, contact your local fire station immediately.**