



Match and Lighter Safety

MATCH AND LIGHTER SAFETY FOR CHILDREN

Matches, lighters, and other heat sources are the leading causes of fire deaths for children. Never underestimate your child's curiosity about fire, nor their ability to strike matches or start a lighter.

Tools - Not Toys!

Children have a natural curiosity about fire. Since they mimic adults in many ways, they



want to mimic fire starting behavior as well. Never use matches or lighters as

amusement for children. It is the adult's responsibility to teach children that matches and lighters are tools, not toys.

Store out of Site

Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, preferably in a locked cabinet. (Remember: even child-resistant lighters are not childproof and should be stored securely as well.)

Never Allow Children to Play with Lighters

Children as young as two years old have been able to operate lighters and start fires with them.

Do Not Leave Children Unattended

It only takes a few seconds for a fire to start and quickly burn out of control.

Other injuries can happen when children are left unsupervised.

Teach Children to "Tell a Grown-Up"

Young children should not handle matches and lighters and they should be taught to "leave matches and lighters where they find them" and "get an adult to pick them up."

Keep Your Home Safe from Fire

Maintain your smoke alarms. Don't leave candles burning unattended. Plan a home fire escape route and hold a practice drill at least twice a year. Install Life Safety Residential Fire Sprinklers to protect your family and home.

Teach Safe Use of Fire

Teach your children about safe use of fire (in cooking, heating, birthday candles, etc.)

- Explain that fire is dangerous and only for grown-ups to use carefully.
- Set a good example by using matches, lighters, flammable liquids and fire safely.
- Tell children that you will teach them to use matches safely when they are old enough.
- When your child is old enough, teach them the correct way to light a match. Do this when you are using fire for a reason. For example, let your child light the birthday candles on someone else's birthday cake.



Informational Bulletin From the Office of the Fire Marshal

Match and Lighter Safety

If Your Child Is Overly Interested in Fire, Has Started a Fire, or Has Played with Matches and Lighters

Your child's natural curiosity about fire needs to be addressed. Children don't understand how dangerous fire is or how quickly it can grow and get out of control. All fires start out small and the potential for a deadly fire is very real.

If you have any concerns about your child's behaviour as related to fire, call the Camas-Washougal Fire Marshal's Office at 360-834-6191 to discuss the situation with a department member trained in handling juvenile fire starter problems

SAFETY REMINDERS FOR ADULTS USING MATCHES OR LIGHTERS



- Buy match books that have a striking surface on the back cover.
- Close the cover of the match book or box before striking the match.

- Strike a match away from the direction of the body.
- When striking a match, hold it an arm's length away.
- Only use matches or lighters when nothing else is distracting you.
- Matches or lighters are very dangerous around flammable liquids such as gasoline.
- A waste basket is not an ash tray.
- Throw a match away only after the flame is extinguished and cool to the touch.
- Check your lighter regularly for cracks, leaks and other defects.
- If lighter fluid is spilled on or near the lighter, it should be cleaned off completely before lighting the flame.
- Persons with restricted mobility or reflexes and elderly persons must use extra caution with lighters and matches.

If You or a Family Member Smokes

Be sure that matches and smoking materials are fully extinguished. Wet them under a faucet before disposing of them. Use a child resistant lighter. (Since 1994 all lighters made or brought into this country must be child resistant. Do not disable this feature. Doing so makes the lighter a major fire risk.)

Keep Kids Safe!