**14 Things a Parents Can Do:**

1. Set a good example. If you smoke, be very responsible in your use of matches and lighters. Children learn by watching you.

2. Keep matches and lighters out of children's sight and reach. Even toddlers can use lighters and matches to start a fire.

3. Teach children the safe and proper ways to use fire. Be sure they understand a responsible grown-up should only use it.

4. Set clear ground rules. Teach children what they should do if they find matches and lighters. If they are young, they should "tell" a grown-up and not touch them. Older children can give you matches and lighters. As an adult, respond by putting the matches and lighters in a safe place.

5. Match and lighter round up. Ask your children to tell you where all the matches and lighters are located throughout your home. You will be surprised to learn what they know. Be sure to then take all the matches and lighters and put them in a safe place.

6. What's a safe place? You may think your purse is a safe place; however, this is one of the first places children go to get matches and lighters. Put matches and lighters in a high secure location.

7. Other ignition devices - in addition to matches and lighters, fireplace starters are common ignition sources. Treat these items in the same way you would matches and lighters.

8. Childproof lighters - while these devices provide a safeguard, they are not totally foolproof. Assume children can manipulate and use these lighters as well.

9. Teach children what they should do if they are around other kids who play with fire. They need to get away and tell a grown-up. This can happen at home, while they are out playing, or at school.

10. Children need supervision. Children will set fires if they have ignition devices (matches and lighters) and opportunity. Be aware of what your children are doing and whom they are playing with.

11. As children get older, teach them how to use fire responsibly. We need fire in our life for many things - heating and cooking. They should only use fire under your supervision and never on their own.

12. Install and maintain smoke detectors in your home. Smoke detectors should be located on every level of your home, outside of bedrooms, and inside bedrooms.

13. Have an escape plan. If you do have a fire, everyone should know how to get out of the house.

14. Teach your child how to stop, drop and roll if their clothes should catch on fire, and how to treat a burn (with cool running water).

If your child misuses fire, contact the fire department. We can help! If you would like educational materials on this subject and fire safety, please contact our office at 360-895-6512.

We would be happy to answer any questions and email you additional information.