**Myths About Youth Fire Setting**

**Myth:** It is normal for children to play with fire.

**Fact:** While curiosity about fire is common, use without a parent's approval or knowledge is dangerous to the child and anyone around them.

**Myth:** If you burn a child's hand, they will stop.

**Fact:** Burns only create fear and scars. The reason behind the fire use must be discovered and addressed.

**Myth:** If you take a child to the burn unit to see burn victims, they will stop misusing fire.

**Fact:** Going to the burn unit only instills fear and does not teach the child anything about fire and fire safety. More importantly, we need to be sensitive to burn survivors who are trying to recover (emotionally and physically) from their burns and we should not put them on display.

**Myth:** Put a child in the back of a police car or have a firefighter talk sternly to them and they will be so scared they won't ever do it ever again.

**Fact:** A police officer will put a child in the back of their patrol car only if they have the legal authority, and it is appropriate to do so. Scare tactics don't get to the root of the problem, and these kids typically continue to set fires.

**Myth:** It is a phase the child will grow out of.

**Fact:** It is not a phase. It is a dangerous behavior. You cannot afford to wait for fire behavior to change. It only takes one match to cause serious injury or death.

**Myth:** Some children are obsessed with fire.

**Fact:** In reality, very few children are obsessed or would be considered pyromaniacs. There is almost always a reason behind the behavior.