

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 recommends smoke alarms are installed in every bedroom, hallways or rooms connecting bedrooms, and on the path of exit if there are no bedrooms on a level.
Visit qfes.qld.gov.au/smoke-alarms
- Working smoke alarms
Check smoke alarms are working by pressing the test button once a month. Keep them clean of dust and bugs by regularly vacuuming.



Escape Plan

- Make a home escape plan
Make an escape plan for your home. Try to have two ways out of every room and pick a meeting place outside the home.
Visit qfes.qld.gov.au/Fire-Escape
- 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 qfes.qld.gov.au



Helping young people develop fire safe skills.

Information for parents and carers.





The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) Fight Fire Fascination (FFF) Program is a free education program linking operational firefighters with children who have displayed a curiosity about fire.

- » FFF is available to young people aged between 3 and 17 who have been involved in at least one concerning fire incident.
- » FFF is a confidential and voluntary program initiated by a parent, caregiver, or a young person able to give consent.
- » FFF is delivered by two carefully selected and trained operational firefighters.
- » FFF is delivered in the home of the young person.
- » FFF is designed to teach children and young people to respect fire and develop fire safety skills.
- » FFF has a carefully designed structure of three visits plus celebration 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. This 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 play houses.
- The smell of something burnt.
- Intense interest or conversations about fire.
- Internet searches for fire related topics including homemade bombs.

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

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.

How do parents describe how FFF has impacted 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.”