

## **Myths about Juvenile Firesetting**

- All children play with fire.
- Playing with fire is a stage they will grow out of it.
- It was just a small fire, they were just playing.
- Juvenile Firesetters are pyromaniacs.
- Punishing, or scaring children will make them stop playing with fire.
- Showing children pictures of burn victims and people/animals who die in fires will stop their firesetting behavior.
- Firesetting in children is related to bedwetting and cruelty to animals.

## **Facts about Juvenile Firesetting**

- Interest in fire is natural, firesetting is not.
- Children, as young as age 3, need to be taught about fire—what it is, what it does, and what it can do if out of control.
- All big fires start small.
- Majority of juvenile firesetters are ordinary children in need of education or counseling.
- Punishment and scare tactics do not teach a child about fire—they may even hide next time.
- Children need to be educated about fire and fire tools.