

MYTHS

- Juveniles who set fires are pyromaniacs or arsonists.
- Juveniles who play with fire, or set fires, do so because of some “urge” or “obsession” with fire.
- Older children light more dangerous and deadly fires.
- Firesetting is a difficult behavior to treat.
- Playing with fire is a part of normal developmental phase for young children.
- Giving youth information about fire will encourage them to want to play with fire.

FACTS

Annually, fireplay causes an average of:

- 80 civilian deaths
- 860 injuries
- \$265 million in property damage

Lighters or matches caused 83% of civilian deaths.

Vast majority of structure fires (over 80%) caused by males

- 43% of those caused by children under the age of 6 years old.

FOR EMERGENCIES, CALL 911

AGENCY PARTNERS

Dutchess County Department of
Emergency Response

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office

Dutchess County Department of Law

Dutchess County Office of Probation
and Community Corrections

Dutchess County Department of
Behavioral and Community Health

Dutchess County Department of
Community and Family Services

Dutchess County
District Attorney's Office

Astor Services for
Children and Families

Town of Poughkeepsie Police

City of Poughkeepsie Police

Lagrange Fire Department

Fairview Fire Department

Hyde Park Police

East Fishkill Police



Marcus J. Molinaro
County Executive

www.dutchessny.gov

Curiosity is normal.

Fireplay is not.



**Dutchess County
Juvenile Firesetter**

J-FIRE
Intervention Response
and Education

Hotline:

845-486-3994

Email: jfire@dutchessny.gov

OUR MISSION:

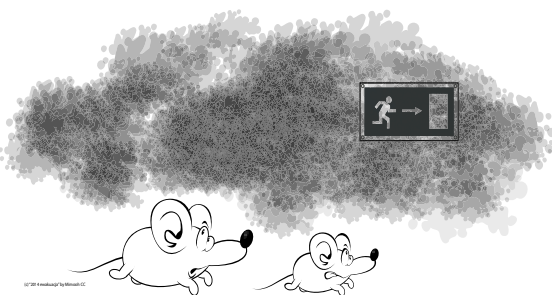
The mission of the Dutchess County J-FIRE Program is to provide a comprehensive, non-punitive, multi-disciplinary approach to address the problem of juvenile firesetting by early identification, assessment, education, and intervention in an effort to protect lives and property.

The J-FIRE Program is a collaborative effort including:

- firefighters
- police officers
- probation officers
- mental health clinicians.

Rather than punish children who use fire, our goal is to improve safety for families.

The services of the Dutchess County J-FIRE Program are available to help youth between the ages of 3 and 17 who reside, attend school, or exhibit firesetting behavior in the County of Dutchess.



CHILDREN START FIRES FOR MANY REASONS

Sometimes, children start fires out of curiosity. Sometimes, it's more than that.

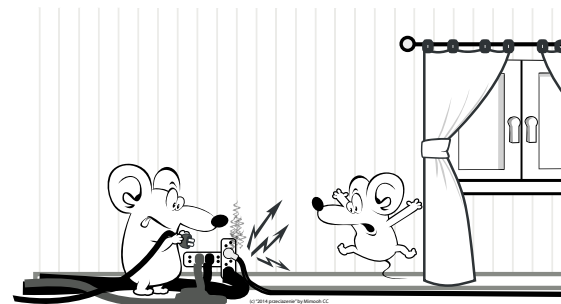
J-FIRE Intervention Specialists are trained and capable of assessing your child to determine the severity of the risk and to determine what is motivating your child to start fires.



Fire is dangerous, and can quickly get out of control for an adult, let alone a child. Children often overestimate their ability to control fire. A single match can destroy many things: A house, a life, a family.

J-FIRE Intervention Specialists help assess why your child is starting fires, and have the training and insight needed to help you intervene to keep your child and your family safe.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CALL?



For non-emergency referrals, leave a message with your name, callback number, and the best time to reach you at:

(845) 486-3994

An Intervention Specialist will call you back within 24 hours of your call to set up an appointment to meet. You can also send an email to:

jfire@dutchessny.gov

Anyone can make a J-FIRE referral.

When you have questions, it's as easy as a phone call away.

The J-FIRE Program uses an evidence-based assessment process that helps determine the level of risk as well as educational strategies for the child and the whole family.

Education has been proven to be the most effective way to stop child firesetting. In addition to education, Intervention Specialists also help YOU reduce fire risks in your home by identifying potential fire hazards.