## Children and Fire Safety

Fires started by children "*playing*" with fire are dangerous and costly. Each year these fires cause hundreds of injuries, millions of dollars in damage, and are most likely to kill young children under the age of 5.

## **V** Tips to follow:



**STORE** matches and lighters out of the reach of children, preferably locked in a high cabinet



**FIND** opportunities to teach children about fire safety - for example, when they are playing with fire trucks or pretending to cook





**TEACH** children to never touch matches or lighters and to tell an adult if they are found



**EXPLAIN** that fire moves very fast and hurts as soon as it touches their body



*KEEP* children away from fire sources, including lit candles, cigarettes, bonfires, and stoves



ALWAYS use fire sources in a safe and responsible manner - be a good example



**GIVE** praise for showing respect and responsible behavior toward fire

If you suspect a child is unusually interested in fire or setting fires, take immediate action. Contact your local fire department, school, burn center, or counseling agency to get help from specially-trained experts.