Juvenile and family fire awareness program

Helping children and families to develop fire safe skills



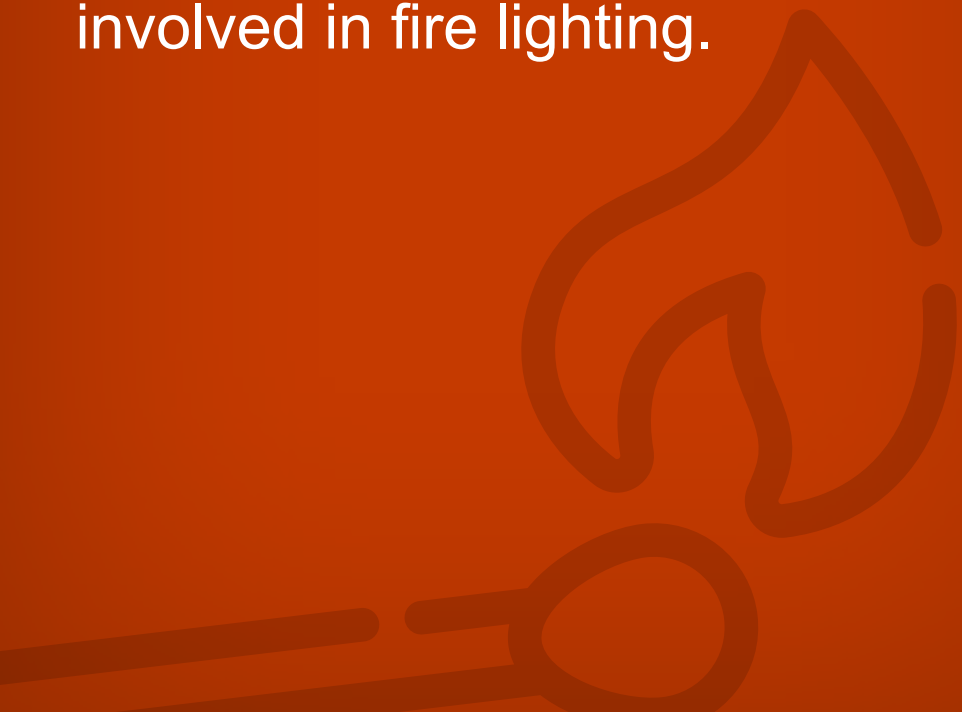
JUVENILE AND FAMILY FIRE AWARENESS PROGRAM

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DFES
Department of Fire & Emergency Services

What is JAFFA?

The Juvenile and Family Fire Awareness (JAFFA) Program is a free and confidential education program offered across Western Australia for young people aged 6 to 16 years who have been involved in fire lighting.














Redheads

What happens in the JAFFA Program?

JAFFA is delivered to you and your child in your home by a specially trained firefighter. If you are uncomfortable with a firefighter visiting you at home, a visit can be arranged at your child's school or at another location of your choice.

The firefighter will ask questions to understand what your child has been doing and why they've been doing it. They will also ask questions about the fire safety equipment in your home.

The program content varies according to your child's age, their level of interest in fire and their existing understanding of fire safety.

On average, a JAFFA session will take up to two hours. Firefighters may recommend several visits if your child is unable to focus for this length of time or if your child has lit multiple fires.

JAFFA topics include:

- Safe and unsafe fires
- How fire behaves and how quickly it can spread
- The dangers of playing with fire (such as property damage, burn injuries, damage to your child's reputation and the legal consequences)
- How to respond to unsafe situations with friends
- The importance of calling Triple Zero (000) as soon as a fire starts
- How small fires have a big impact on the community
- How to make your home and family safe from fire.

As part of your child's involvement in JAFFA, we will ask you to develop a home fire safety plan together so that everyone in your home knows what to do if there is a fire.

Is the JAFFA Program suitable for my child?

JAFFA is most suitable for young people who have been motivated to play with fire out of curiosity or as a result of peer pressure.

JAFFA may not be suitable for all young people, especially those involved in antisocial and criminal activities. Young people with mental health or complex behaviours may also need support from behaviour experts.

The staff involved in the program will let you know whether JAFFA is right for your family and may suggest other services that can help.

What can you do?

- Remove the temptation of lighters and matches – lock them away out of your child's reach. If you are a smoker, ensure your lighter or matches are never left where your child can pick them up
- Teach your children to bring you unattended matches or lighters and reward them for their honesty
- Make your home safer by installing photoelectric smoke alarms. As a minimum, smoke alarms should be installed in each hallway that provide access to bedrooms. For optimum protection install smoke alarms in every bedroom, living area and hallway in your home
- Consider mains powered alarms; otherwise install smoke alarms with a 10-year battery life
- Replace your smoke alarms every 10 years
- Make a home fire escape plan so everybody in your home knows what to do if there is a fire.

Do not ignore your child's fire play

Whilst curiosity about fire is common, lighting fires unsupervised can be deadly. Your child's fire interest must be addressed, otherwise it may continue.

Harsh punishment doesn't work and will often result in your child becoming more secretive about their interest in fire and may light fires away from home.

If your child is lighting fires, call the JAFFA Program for help and assistance.

Further information

If you would like to enrol your child in the JAFFA Program or would like further information, please phone 9395 9488 or email **jaffa@dfes.wa.gov.au**. Referral forms can be found on the DFES website: **www.dfes.wa.gov.au/jaffa**

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