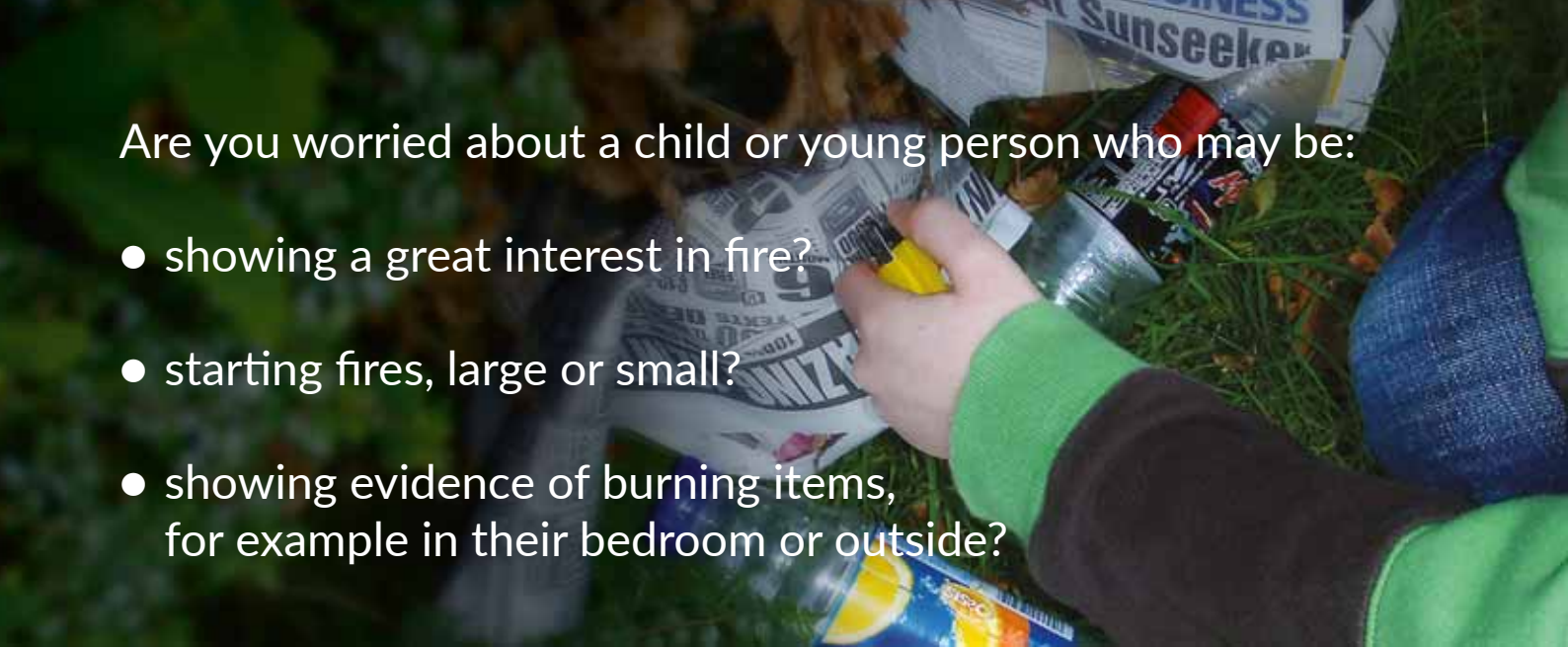


DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE

Firesetters Intervention Scheme

PASSIONATE ABOUT
CHANGING & SAVING LIVES



Are you worried about a child or young person who may be:

- showing a great interest in fire?
- starting fires, large or small?
- showing evidence of burning items, for example in their bedroom or outside?

Why do children set fires?

Many children and young people are fascinated by fire and show an interest and curiosity, sometimes from a very young age.

For some children and young people this interest can develop into playing with fire, although reasons for firesetting can range from curiosity through to attention seeking or an emotional outlet.

Talking to a young person early on is vital to stop the firesetting habit as soon as possible.

Firesetting is dangerous and we can help to explain the dangers and consequences to the child/young person in a sensitive and informed manner with appropriate resources. Early intervention can greatly reduce the chances of it happening again.



Tell tale signs of regular firesetting

- small burn holes in carpets, beds and/or furniture
- charred paper in sinks or bins
- matches or lighters hidden where the child/young person thinks are secret. For example, cupboards and drawers, under their beds
- an unusual fascination with fire
- unexplained fires in your home

Intervention programme

The Firesetters scheme is not a punishment and should not be viewed as such. The objective is to achieve a 'fire safe' person and environment.

Aimed at children and young people up to 18 years of age who are believed to be involved in firesetting.

Requests for help can come from both parents/carers as well as professionals who

work with the child/young person (e.g. teachers, social workers).

Each request for intervention is tailor made by the needs of the child/young person.

Our specially trained advisors work in pairs and visit the child/young person in their home. They will work with the child/young person to help them become "firesafe".

Firesetters advisors

All of our advisors are employees of Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and come from all aspects of the Service. They have received approved training in working with young people who are fascinated by fire.

Make your home fire safe

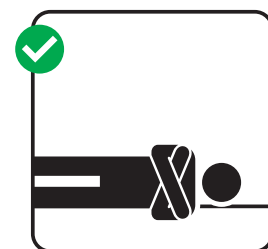
- never leave a young child alone in the home
- keep matches and lighters out of sight and reach
- if you suspect firesetting is occurring, search for matches and lighters in bedrooms, school bags, etc
- teach everyone STOP, DROP and ROLL if clothes catch fire
- explain that fire is dangerous
- test your smoke alarms, you should have at least one on each floor
- make sure everyone knows the escape routes and they are kept clear
- a Safe and Well visit will be offered to all homes of a child/young person who is on the firesetters intervention scheme



STOP!



DROP!



ROLL!



DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE



firesetter@dwfire.org.uk



01722 691000 (and ask to speak to someone concerning firesetters)



dwfire.org.uk (and follow the education pages for further information)

Please note: if you are not the parent/carer, we will need you to have made the family aware you are making the referral.

Full confidentiality is maintained unless we have a legal responsibility to pass information onto other agencies.

Please also contact us if you have a child who has a fear of fire which is causing distress.