

Striking Out

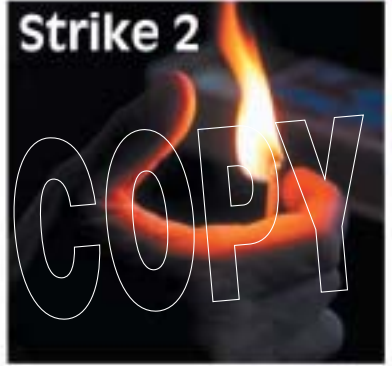
with Matches and Lighters

A Teen 'Zine

Strike 1



Strike 2



SAMPLE

COPY

strike 3...

you're OUT!



If you play with fire,



you may get burned!

Fire demands respect. Setting a fire is very dangerous—to the firesetter and the firefighter. Even though starting a small fire might seem like no big deal, that fire can spread rapidly—growing out of control in a matter of seconds. Setting a fire, even a small one is never a good idea!

Over one-half of all arson cases involve preteens. Fires set by preteens kill hundreds of individuals each year and destroy millions of dollars of property. Firefighters and firesetters are killed in these fires.

Fires are dangerous. More people die in fires than in hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and all natural disasters combined!

Why do kids start fires?

Anger, Frustration, Powerlessness

Some fires are started, not because the person does not know the consequences of fire, but because of anger, frustration or a feeling of powerlessness or loss of control. Arson refers to the malicious and willful burning of any structure, forestland, or property. A teenager who commits the crime of arson may be charged as an adult.



News Bulletin!

If someone starts a fire, what may happen?

Here are parts of real stories about people who started fires. Circle the section of the news article that tells what happened to the juvenile firesetters.

Bakersfield, California

A 17-year-old was charged with eight counts of arson and felony vandalism. Authorities tracked the suspect, who had no prior criminal record, for a few months. Bakersfield's Fire Chief indicated that: "It wasn't the teen's intent to burn the library down. He was wielding power, getting attention and creating a disturbance."

New Orleans, Louisiana

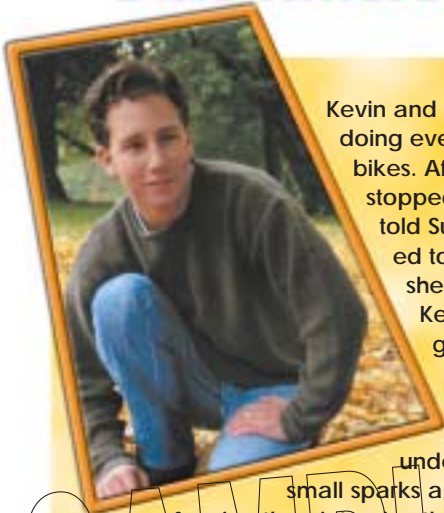
Four high school seniors were arrested and accused of setting fire to the doorway of the school gym. The students were charged with simple arson, as opposed to a charge of aggravated arson, which involves risk to life or serious danger.

"Arson investigators work with local police and fire departments to investigate every suspicious fire."

Daytona, Florida

A 12-year-old boy set a fire that burned five acres in Daytona Park Estates. The boy is in custody at the regional juvenile detention facility. He is facing a third-degree felony charge.

Kevin and Susan— Bike Riders or Firesetters?



Kevin and Susan were best friends. They enjoyed doing everything together, especially riding their bikes. After riding for awhile, Kevin and Susan stopped in a wooded area near Kevin's home. He told Susan that he had some matches and wanted to build a campfire. When Susan said that she didn't know how to build a campfire, Kevin eagerly volunteered to teach her. They gathered dried leaves and sticks, placing them into a large pile in the middle of several small trees. Kevin struck some matches and carefully placed them under the pile of dried sticks and leaves. When small sparks appeared, Kevin blew on the flame, quickly fanning the air to give the fire more oxygen. As the fire started, the wind blew some of the leaves into the woods. Suddenly, a tree caught fire and then another, until a large fire began to blaze. Susan and Kevin were frightened and left. When Kevin returned home, he noticed several fire trucks in front of his home. *Write an ending to this story.*



Don't Be A Firesetter

Crossword Puzzle

Unscramble the words below to complete the crossword puzzle.

SAMPLE COPY

Across

1. The willful destruction of public or private property d a v i n s m i a
3. A state of dissatisfaction o u t r s t r a i n f
5. A crime for which the punishment may be death or imprisonment for more than one year l o f n e y
6. Having no strength s l e w p r e s o
9. Alone t o a d s l i e

Down

2. The willful burning of any structure, forestland, or property n a s o r
4. A colorless, tasteless, odorless gaseous element involved in combustion or burning n e x o g y
6. A type of person l i f e r o p
7. Series of similar acts over time r i s e l a
8. Relating to the study of the mind and behavior o i c c a p s o g l y l h

* Answer key on back cover

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Circle the best answers. One or more may apply.

1. Who is most likely to be killed in fires set by firesetters?
 - a. firefighters
 - b. the firesetters themselves
 - c. the owners of buildings
 - d. fire investigators

2. Fires are deliberately started as a result of...
 - a. fascination
 - b. anger
 - c. frustration
 - d. feelings of powerlessness

3. Severe burns may cause...
 - a. major scars that never go away with time
 - b. the loss of fingers and hands
 - c. physical and psychological scars
 - d. long hospitalizations

4. Debridement of a burn means...
 - a. the cutting away of burned tissue
 - b. the use of exercises to strengthen muscles
 - c. the placing of cream on a burn
 - d. the cutting of skin from one part of the body to cover a burn

5. Skin grafts are...
 - a. drawings of the skin
 - b. operations to remove skin from one part of the body and place on a burned area
 - c. operations that must be repeated in the treatment of burns
 - d. operations that may require long hospitalizations

6. Physical therapy involves...
 - a. weight lifting
 - b. catching and throwing
 - c. blocking and tackling
 - d. the treatment of various health conditions by physical and mechanical means, such as massage and regulated exercise

** Answer key on back cover*

Practicing Fire Safety Is Your Responsibility

If you know someone who likes to play with fire, talk to a parent, teacher or counselor at your school about how to help that person. And if you ever find yourself setting things on fire and are unable to stop, talk to an adult about the problem.

Burns Mean Pain

Someone who is burned in a fire suffers incredible pain. Immediately after someone is burned, his or her wounds need debridement, or the cutting away of burned tissue. The person then has a series of skin-grafts or operations to remove skin from one part of the body to place on the burned areas. The grafts require long hospitalizations.

Burns Mean Scars

Scars from burns may permanently damage the skin, changing the victim's appearance. Intense psychological counseling is needed to help the burn victim cope with their changed appearance. Even the latest surgical techniques may not correct some scars caused by burns.

Burns May Mean Loss of Body Parts

Some severe burns may cause individuals to lose body parts, including fingers and entire hands. Other burn victims may undergo long, painful sessions of physical therapy to regain the use of damaged hands, arms and legs.

Crossword Puzzle Answer Key—Across: 1. vandalism, 3. frustration, 5. felony, 6. powerless, 9. isolated Down: 2. arson, 4. oxygen, 6. profile, 7. serial, 8. psychological

Test Your Knowledge Answer Key: 1. a, b; 2. a, b, c, d; 3. a, b, c, d; 4. a; 5. b, c, d; 6. d