

# Unexpected Ways Fires Start

## #7 Source: Kids Playing

### The Problem:

More than half of the people killed by fires started by children playing were under age five!

### A True Fire Story:

#### The Statistics:

5%  
of fires,  
8%  
of deaths

A 2 year old boy was killed in NE Roanoke when he found a lighter and started a fire in his family's living room. He hid in his room because he didn't want to get in trouble. Other family members including 2 other children escaped the fire, but firefighters were unable to save the young boy. He died on the scene.

**Children will often start fires** while hiding in places like closets or under beds, where they're surrounded by combustibles. Their first reaction is often to hide from you or the fire after it starts. There, they become overcome by smoke and/or make it difficult for firefighters to find them. Kids are also curious by nature and may start a fire to see what will happen. Never leave matches and lighters lying around and be vigilant around burning candles.



Fire caused by a 7 year old boy



### The Solution:

- Store matches and lighters up high, well out of the reach of children.
- Teach children that matches and lighters aren't toys, but they are tools for grown ups.
- If your child finds matches or lighters, tell them not to touch, but tell a grownup.



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