

# media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



## Warning issued on novelty cigarette lighters

Tuesday, 25 August 2015

With Father's Day fast approaching, the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) issued a fire safety warning about novelty cigarette lighters being sold and promoted around Adelaide.

These lighters come disguised as miniatures of things that could be very attractive to children, or that children could mistake for a toy and want to play with. Some of these lighters may not be equipped with the safety locks that stop children accidentally lighting the flame.

"Mixing children with fire lighting tools is a dangerous cocktail," said Greg Howard, MFS Commander, Community Safety and Resilience.

"We regularly attend house fires caused by children playing with lighters. They don't understand the consequences of fire or of its potential, and tragedies are often the sad outcome."

Commander Howard asked parents and carers to "Please think twice before you buy a lighter that you think is cute or clever. It could prove irresistible to a child – with devastating consequences."

The MFS provides a special **Juvenile Firefighters Intervention Program (JFLIP)** to assist families in addressing the problem of children and young people who are playing with fire.

Parents or guardians who are concerned about their child's or children's interest or activity with fire should ring the MFS on 1300 737 637 to enquire about the program (during business hours).

**JFLIP** is delivered by operational MFS firefighters who have been specially trained to work with children. **The program is free and completely confidential.**

The MFS recommends the following safety tips for parents, carers, friends and relatives:

- **Keep matches, lighters and fire starters well out of reach of children.** Storage above adult shoulder height and out of sight is recommended.
- Teach young children that they must never touch matches and lighters. They must notify an adult if they see them lying around. Praise children when they do so.
- Wherever possible avoid using candles if you have young children. Torches and battery powered artificial candles are recommended as a safer option.
- If you must use candles, keep them up high, out of reach of children. Never leave children or pets in a room with a candle burning. A child should not sleep in a room with a lit candle.
- Ensure your family has a Home Fire Escape Plan. Practise the plan with the children to ensure everyone understands what to do in the event of a fire.

The MFS urges families to combine the above safety tips with interconnected, photo-electric smoke alarms that are less than 10 years old.

**For media enquiries and interviews call the MFS Media Line on (08) 8204 3770**

[www.mfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au)