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CONTACT: Michael Young, PIO, 623-238-0179

## CHILD PLAYING WITH CANDLE RESPONSIBLE FOR HOUSE FIRE

**Glendale, Ariz.** — Glendale Fire Investigators say a house fire at 4300 West Kaler Circle last night at approximately 8:45 p.m. was caused by a child playing with a lit candle under a bed while his mother slept in another room.

The initial reports of people trapped in the home caused the fire department to upgrade the house fire to a first alarm assignment, doubling the amount of manpower responding to help with the possible rescue situation. Luckily everyone was able to get out of the house prior to the fire department's arrival and the first alarm units were able to go back into service immediately.

Between 2005 - 2009, fires started by children playing accounted for a national average of 56,300 fires with associated losses of 110 civilian deaths, 880 civilian injuries and \$286 million in direct property damage per year.

The Glendale Fire Department's Youth Firesetter Intervention Program provides customized educational interventions in situations like last night's house fire. The primary goal of the intervention program is to detect children at risk for participating in unsupervised firesetting incidents and then provide educational intervention to stop the firesetting behavior. The program is free and is available to any Valley youth between the ages of 3 and 17. The curriculum includes fire safety education, fire science, and the consequences of firesetting, burn injuries, choices, and arson and fireworks laws.

The program managed by Dr. Janet A. Boberg, is recognized by the U.S. Fire Administration as one of the top programs in the nation. According to the USFA website, Glendale Fire's intervention program is one of only eight successful programs in the county.

As always, the Glendale Fire Department urges parents to teach their children that fire is a tool, not a toy. Always keep matches and lighters out of reach and set a good example by properly using matches, lighters and fire. The most important thing a parent or caregiver can do is to always supervise young children.

For more information regarding Glendale Fire Department's Youth Firesetter Intervention program, please visit <http://www.glendaleaz.com/education/youthfiresetterintervention.cfm>.

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