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

CHILD PLAYING WITH LIGHTER RESPONSIBLE FOR APARTMENT FIRE

Glendale, Ariz. — Glendale Fire Investigators say an apartment fire at 6100 North 59 Avenue on the morning of October 8, 2013 was caused by a child playing with a lighter in the living room.

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 this past Tuesday's apartment 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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