



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 29, 2014
CONTACT: Ronald Hart, PIO, 602-312-0204

CHILD PLAYING WITH LIGHTER RESPONSIBLE FOR APARTMENT FIRE

Glendale, Ariz. — Glendale Fire Investigators say a 3rd story apartment fire at 4444 West Ocotillo Dr. on the morning of October 29, 2014 was caused by a child playing with a lighter in a bedroom. Glendale Fire Department received a 911 call from the occupant stating there was a fire. Fire units arrived and found two adults, one child and their dog had escaped. Firefighters quickly extinguished the blaze but the apartment is uninhabitable. Glendale Fire Department Crisis response and the Red Cross are assisting the family with relocation.

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>.

###

◆ *FAST* ◆

◆ *CARING* ◆

◆ *INNOVATIVE* ◆

◆ *PROFESSIONAL* ◆