



# NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[GlendaleAZ.com/Fire](http://GlendaleAZ.com/Fire)

## Glendale Fire Department

6829 North 58th Drive / Glendale, Arizona 85301

623-930-4400



December 12, 2016

CONTACT: Capt. Michael Young, PIO, 623-986-0148

## **CHILDREN PLAYING WITH LIGHTER RESPONSIBLE FOR APARTMENT FIRE**

**Glendale, Ariz.** — Glendale Fire Department investigators say a fire at 6800 West Bethany Home Road on the afternoon of Saturday, December 10, was caused by two children playing with a lighter in the kitchen of the apartment.

Although the damage was estimated at \$1000, it could have been much worse.

According to the National Fire Protection Agency, from 2007 – 2011, fires started by children playing accounted for a national average of 49,300 fires per year. These fires caused annual averages of 80 civilian deaths, 860 civilian injuries, and \$235 million in property damage.

Both children, ages 9 and 11, were referred to the Glendale Fire Department's Youth Firesetter Intervention Program, which provides customized educational interventions in situations like this past Saturday'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 country.

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 always to supervise young children.

For more information regarding Glendale Fire Department's Youth Firesetter Intervention program, please visit <http://www.glendaleaz.com/education/youthfiresetterintervention.cfm> or call 623-930-4400.

###