

Focus on Fire Safety



FEMA

U.S. Fire Administration

Novelty Lighters—Playing with Fire

Novelty lighters in the hands of children are a deadly and emerging threat to life and property nationwide. It is critical to focus public attention on the dangers of these toylike devices. Children are attracted to novelty lighters because they look like toys, with visual effects, flashing lights, and musical sounds. Mistaking lighters for toys has proven to be dangerous as novelty lighters are responsible for injuries, deaths, and accidents across the Nation. Some local and State governments are taking action by banning the sale of novelty lighters, and limiting their distribution. For these reasons, the theme for National Arson Awareness Week, May 4–10, 2008 is “Toylike Lighters—Playing with Fire.”

To better track this dangerous, emerging national fire trend, the National Fire Data Center began collecting data on fires started by novelty lighters in January 2008.



For information and resources on this subject visit

www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus