



# Klamath County Fire District No. 1

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **National Arson Awareness Week May 4 – 10, 2008 Toy like Lighters: Playing with Fire**

In 2005, the National Fire Protection Association estimates that 323,900 fires were intentionally set.

Novelty lighters that look like toys are dangerous, even deadly, in the hands of children.

Toy like or novelty lighters have been responsible for injuries, deaths and accidents across the nation. Children are especially attracted to novelty lighters because they look like toys. Many of the novelty lighters have visual effects, flashing lights, musical sounds and look like innocent toys.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission has recalled thousands of toy like and novelty lighters since 1996 due to their threat to public safety.

In 2002, the National Fire Protection Association estimated that children playing with toy like novelty lighters were responsible for 13,900 structure fires with associated losses of 210 deaths, 1,250 injuries and \$339 million in direct damages.

Increasing public awareness regarding the danger associated with novelty lighters is one of the most effective ways to reduce the number of fires, deaths and injuries attributed to them.

