



BBQ fire lighter danger

Attention: Store Manager

An Auckland variety store was recently damaged by fire. It was started by a child who had picked up a gas powered BBQ lighter in the shop and set alight a Christmas decoration display. The child was burned and others in the store who breathed in the smoke were treated by ambulance staff.

Stock in the shop was damaged from heat and smoke. Water damage was also sustained when the store's sprinkler system activated.

The Danger:

These products are often not wrapped in packaging and could easily be picked up and used by children. Even small fires can harm store owners, their staff and customers, and force businesses to close while repairs are carried out.

What you should do

Retailers are strongly advised to identify fire-starting products in their stores (cigarette lighters, BBQ lighters, novelty lighters, matches etc) and move them to high shelves that are out of the reach of children.



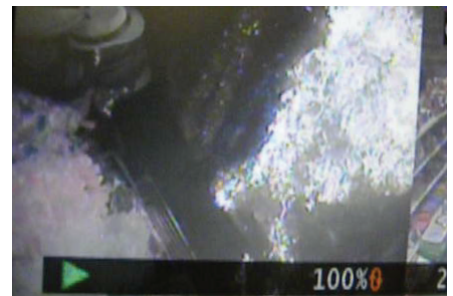
These photographs from security camera film show what happened in Auckland:



Child starts fire using BBQ lighter.



35 seconds later a fire is burning fiercely.



43 seconds after starting, the fire has reached the ceiling and is spreading through the shop.

For further general information on fire safety in retail businesses go to www.fire.org.nz
Store owners can get specific advice on fire safety by ringing 0800 FIRE INFO (0800 3473 4636)

