



Volunteer firefighter sentenced to 12 months for lighting fires, making fake calls to triple-0

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A teenage volunteer firefighter in Perth has been sentenced to 12 months in prison for lighting two fires and making false emergency calls.

MAP: Perth 6000



Jayden DJ Parker, 18, used a cigarette lighter to start a bushfire in the Bedforddale area on two occasions in December last year.

In the months before, Parker used a mobile phone without a SIM card to ring triple-0 about fires in the same area.

He made seven false calls.

District Court judge Michael Bowden said although the offences were at the lower end of the scale, there was a need for general deterrence.

He rejected defence suggestions that a suspended prison term was appropriate.

"The history of fires is they get out of control," Judge Bowden said.

The court was told the offences were a "cry for help" from Parker, who had been bullied at school and has emotional and social problems as a result.

During his police interview, Parker told officers he needed help and he was glad they "picked him up".

The judge heard Parker had been bullied in prison and said he accepted imprisonment was a particularly harsh penalty for the teenager because of that treatment.

With time already served, Parker will be eligible for parole in two months.

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