Youth Firesetting Intervention Program YFSIP

A statewide standardized program to provide prevention education/intervention and referrals if warranted for the children and families of Illinois to reduce the frequency and severity of fires set by Youths. Collaboration with our State and community partners will provide a coordinated referral center for the assessment and treatment of Youth Firesetting behaviors, thereby slowing down the often devastating results of youth fire setting.

Fire Prevention education and intervention for youth and families can effectively address the issue of youth fire setting, provided it is appropriately targeted, designed, and delivered. To address the youth fire setting problem effectively, it is crucial to consider the underlying behaviors driving the issue. Understanding the motivations behind these behaviors provides the most reliable insight into developing effective solutions.

Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal

The purpose of the OSFM is to bring together persons or groups with a common interest in fire safety, fire prevention, and public education to promote programs and disseminate information related to fire safety and fire prevention.

To request help, scan the QR code or contact us at any of the options below.

YOUTH FIRESETTERINTER VENTIONPROGRAM

1035 Stevenson Drive Springfield, IL 62703

www.sfm.illinois.gov

Office: 217-785-4713

Hotline: 847-400-4864

E-mail: sfm.jfsi@illinois.gov

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The Youth Fire Setting Problem

8,100 child-playing structure fires reported
50 civilian deaths
400 civilian injuries
$112 million in direct damages

65% of fires reported are in the home
50% of fire play reported under the age of 10
46%of fatal victims are under the age of 5

***NFPA** Statistics

The overall goal of OSFM Youth Firesetting Intervention Program is to reduce the frequency and severity of the tragedy and trauma caused by child and youth fire related activities.

Children "playing" with or starting fires is dangerous and costly. Each year these fires cause hundreds of injuries, millions of dollars in damage, and are most likely to kill young children under the age of 5.

Some children play with fire out of curiosity, boredom, or peer pressure, not realizing its danger. But other children misuse fire because they are struggling with problems or emotions. Without proper intervention and instruction, children who misuse fire will very likely do it again. However, if punishment is the only intervention strategy used, it could actually contribute to the problem. What can you do?



Follow these tips to keep your family safe:

- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children, up high, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Closely supervise children, making sure that they are kept away from other fire sources, including lit candles, cigarettes, bonfires, and stoves.
- It is natural for young children to be curious and ask questions about fire, play with fire trucks, or pretend to cook. Use these opportunities to teach them about fire safety.
- Explain that fire moves very fast and can hurt as soon as it touches them. Tell them that this is why matches and lighters are tools for adults only.
- Teach young children to never touch matches or lighters. They must go tell a grown-up when matches or lighters are found.
- Establish clear rules and consequences about unsupervised and unauthorized uses of fire.
- Be a good example! Always use fire sources matches, lighters, candles, fireplaces, and campfires — in a safe manner. Never treat them as toys, or children may imitate you.
- Talk with children about what their friends or other children are doing with fire. Understand what they are seeing on-line, in video games, on TV, in movies, and on social media. Teach them specific ways to resist the peer pressure to misuse fire.

IMPORTANT- Understand that children and fire are a deadly combination.
All children are at risk for using fire unsafely. Many fires happen simply because matches and lighters are left within a child's reach.

Youth Firesetting Interventionists

Youth Firesetting Interventionists are Illinois state certified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal through the OSFM Youth Firesetting Intervention Program. Interventionists are trained in accordance to the National Fire Protection Association 1035 Standards regarding Youth fire setting.

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