

How bad is the problem of Juvenile Fire Setting?

Each year New York experiences hundreds of fires set by children that result in death, injuries, firefighter injuries, and millions of dollars in property loss. Less than 10% of fires started by juveniles are even reported. As reported in the Juvenile Firesetting Annual Report, more than 80 percent of children who set fires will do so again unless there is intervention. According to the NYS Fire Prevention and Control: "Early intervention and treatment will prevent future criminal behavior and save countless injuries, lives, and dollars of property loss." Most fires started adolescent occur outside of their home. These fires include such things as dumpsters, grass, woods, school property, portable toilets, fireworks and bomb threats.

False alarms in schools and public buildings pulled by juveniles are not taken lightly by fire departments. A false alarm endangers many lives. Twenty-five percent of fire-fighter deaths occur responding to or from calls.

The consequences for these actions include:

* Property Damage

* Burns

* Economic consequences for families and property owners.

* Criminal liability and prosecution



What is the Washington County Juvenile Fire Intervention Response and Education Program?

Mission Statement

The mission of the Washington County Juvenile Fire Intervention Response and Education Program is to provide a comprehensive approach to effectively solve the problem of juveniles who set fires through proper education, early identification and assessment, and facilitate referrals for appropriate intervention strategies. Our program is coordinated by a full spectrum of professionals from various agencies throughout Washington County that include but not limited to law enforcement, fire service, mental health, probation, family court, youth bureau, and public education systems.

What are the Goals of the program?

- Identify juveniles who start fires
- Assess the juvenile's needs
- Provide life skills training and education
- Provide referrals to family counseling
- Evaluate juvenile's and program's progress

What are the Objectives of this program?

- Public Awareness
- Accurate screening and evaluation
- Develop and maintain a broad and efficient referral system
- Education and training
- Diversion

The **National Fire Protection Association** reports fires set by young children yearly result in:

*95,000 fires

*300 deaths

*3,000 injuries

*\$300 million in loss

The **FBI** reports that child and adult arson result in:

560,000 fires, 750 deaths, 3,700 injuries, \$1.5 billions in loss, 55% of arson arrests are under age 18, half of these are ages 15 or younger, 6.8% are under age 10.

Who is the program for?

First-time juvenile offenders for the following offense:

- False Fire Alarm
- Accidental Fires
- Negligent Fires
- Intentional Fires

Referral Sources

- As a court disposition
- Any juvenile who voluntarily enrolls in the program or is referred by a school official
- Law Enforcement
- Local Fire Service
- Fire Investigators
- Mental Health
- Probation Department
- Department of Social Services

“Do you know a child who plays with fire?”

Class Information

Classes are three to four and a half hours long and are held in one to four sessions. The location is mutually determined by the educators and the families.

There is no fee for this program.

Topics covered include:

- Rules and Laws – consequences if broken
- Fire Behavior – what is fire
- Fire safety – smoke detectors, escape plans, and fire sprinklers
- Fire prevention – home hazards



Washington County J-Fire Task Force:

Washington County Fire Coordinator
518-746-2255

Washington County Youth Bureau
518- 746-2330

Washington County Social Services
518-746-2300

Washington County Attorney
518-746-2216

Washington County Probation
518-746-2260

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A REFERRAL

CALL

518-746-2142

J-Fire Core Team Members

Bureau of Fire

J-Fire Coordinator

DSS

Washington County Attorney's Office

Fire Service

Washington Co. Sheriff's Office

Hudson Falls Police

J-Fire Education Committee

Substance Abuse Services

Public Education

Washington County Juvenile Fire Intervention Response and Education Program

J-FIRE



Intervention and Prevention Through Education and Awareness

Coordinated by:

Washington County Fire Coordinator, Washington County Youth Bureau, Washington County Social Services, Washington County Attorney, Washington County Probation, Investigators, Mental health, Law Enforcement, Schools.

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