

# Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program

## Where to get Help

The Colorado Springs Fire Department offers an educational program for the juvenile firesetter. This program provides an opportunity for a child's level of firesetting/fire play to be evaluated through an educational and awareness assessment with the child and their parents. All assessments are conducted at Fire Department Headquarters, 375 Printers Parkway, and last about one hour. Children ages three to seven are provided with prevention education immediately following their assessment. Those children ages eight to seventeen are eligible to attend a three hour group class led by a Juvenile Firesetting Intervention Specialist, a firefighter and an adult burn survivor. Group classes are held monthly during the evening at Fire Department Headquarters.

Our city continues to experience many fire incidents originated by children and youth under the age of eighteen that result in fires of varying magnitudes. These incidents range from curiosity fire play, to those involved in crisis situations, to purposeful delinquent behavior. It's rare, but the potential also exists for pathological cases. Over the past two years we have received almost two hundred referrals to the program, with a high percentage of those coming from parents/guardians and family members.

Since the program's inception, the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program has had an extremely high success rate in reducing the number of children involved in repeat fire incidents. In some instances, referrals are made for the child to receive additional help through resources at Pikes Peak Mental Health.

**For more information or to schedule a  
Juvenile Firesetter Assessment, please call: 719-385-5950**

### *“Why Do Kids Set Fires?”*

Fire curiosity is natural for young children, however curiosity can progress. Oftentimes firesetting is a symptom of other problems. The different levels of juvenile firesetters include, curiosity, crisis, delinquent, and pathological. Knowing why your child is engaging in fireplay is just one part of providing them the help and education they may need.

**Curiosity**

**Crisis**

**Delinquent**

**Pathological**



375 Printers Parkway • Colorado Springs, CO 80910