

WHAT IS THE FIRE INTERVENTION PROGRAM?

It is a group of agencies within Anoka County who came together in 1993 to deal with the issues of juvenile firesetting. This group is called the Anoka County Juvenile Firesetters Task Force. They have developed a fire intervention program for juvenile firesetting. The program is educational in nature with information that will carry into their adulthood and make for a fire safe life. Parents are encouraged to attend.

WHO IS THE FIRE INTERVENTION PROGRAM FOR?

Any adolescent 10 to 17 years old that shows an interest with fire, or has been involved with setting fires, or pulling false alarms.

If your child is under 10 years of age and is playing with matches/lighters or fascinated by fire please contact your local fire department. The fire department will then talk with your child one-on-one. Early intervention is the best way to stop this dangerous behavior.

FIREPLAY DESERVES ATTENTION!

Young children are naturally curious about fire. They should be taught the dangers of fire and the proper use of it at the first signs of interest. When they become adolescents they should no longer have this curiosity. In certain cases playing with fire or firesetting can be a crime which is called arson. Arson is defined as the malicious burning of property and is a felony offense. Even if the fire is accidentally set, it can be considered arson.

YOU MAY ENTER THE PROGRAM IF YOUR CHILD IS OVER 10 YEARS OLD AND:

- ⇒ Your child is involved in a firesetting incident or false alarm where the fire department is called. The fire department will refer your child to the program.
- ⇒ The police charge the juvenile with setting a fire, which will lead, to the juvenile courts referring the child to the program.
- ⇒ You can contact your local fire department to enroll your child in the program.

CLASS INFORMATION

The class is taught by firefighters on the third Saturday of each month except December. It is four and one half hours in length and runs from 8 a.m. to 12:30p.m. The class is held at Lino Lakes Correctional Facility. The cost of the class is \$40 for Anoka County residents, \$50 for non.residents.

Topics that are covered include:

- **Rules & laws** - consequences if broken.
- **Fire behavior** - what is fire.
- **Fire safety** - smoke detectors, escape plans, and fire sprinklers.
- **Fire prevention** – home hazards

After you have registered with your fire department for the class you will be sent information on your scheduled class.

HOW BAD IS THE PROBLEM OF JUVENILE FIRESETTING?

FBI statistics for 2008 show that juveniles accounted for over 53% of arson arrests. Of those, one third are under the age of 18. No other crime tracked by the FBI has such a high rate of juvenile involvement.

Children playing with fire in Minnesota resulted in \$2.2 million in property loss in 2008. Additionally, 23 injuries to civilians and 4 injuries to firefighters were a direct result of child-set fires. There was 2 fatality due to children playing with fire.

Most fires started by adolescents occur outside of their home. These fires include such things as: Dumpsters, grass, woods, school property, portable toilets, fireworks, and bombs threats.

False alarms in schools and public buildings pulled by juveniles are not taken lightly by fire departments. A false alarm is endangering many lives. 24% of firefighter deaths occur responding to or from calls.

The **consequences** for these actions include:

- * Property damage
- * Burns
- * Criminal charges
- * Economic consequences to families and property owners



WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN BE SAFE FROM FIRE

- ◆ Keep all matches & lighters locked up or on yourself at all times, treat them as you would a loaded gun. Only have one lighter or box of matches in the house at one time.
- ◆ Teach young children that matches & lighters are tools not toys. Only adults should use them.
- ◆ It is illegal for anyone under 18 years old to buy lighters.
- ◆ Discuss with your children the dangers of fire and the consequences if they experiment with it.
- ◆ Set a good example by always being safe with fire.
- ◆ Install smoke detectors and a residential fire sprinkler system.
- ◆ Regularly inspect your home for fire hazards. Keep combustibles at least three feet away from things that get hot. Check electrical cords for frayed wires.
- ◆ Plan and practice home fire escape drills.



The Anoka County Juvenile Firesetter Task Force consists of the following Agencies:

Local Law Enforcement Agencies
763-427-1212
Anoka County Social Services
763-422-7000
Anoka County Child Protection
763-422-7125
Anoka County Corrections
763-323-5901
Anoka County Attorneys Office
763-323-5594

CALL your local Fire Department

Andover	763-755-9825
Anoka-Champlin	763-421-6631
Bethel	763-434-7800
Blaine	763-786-4436
Centennial	651-784-7472
Columbia Heights	763-706-3650
Coon Rapids	763-767-6429
East Bethel	763-434-9569
Fridley	763-572-3621
Ham Lake	763-434-7077
Lexington	763-784-1604
Linwood	651-462-0502
Mounds View	763-786-4436
Oak Grove	763-753-1920
Ramsey	763-427-1410
Spring Lake Park	763-786-4436
St. Francis	763-753-2334

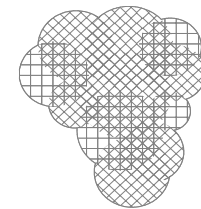
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FIRE

INTERVENTION

PROGRAM



The Juvenile Firesetters
Triangle