

Teaching Topics for Youth Firesetting Intervention

The following is a menu of topics that should be covered during the educational portion of juvenile firesetter intervention. Personal skill, experiences, and technique should be use by each Specialist. This is not meant to limit the education but, rather, to provide a minimum checklist for the Specialist.

- Matches and lighters are tools, not toys.
- Matches and Lighters have special safe places where they must be kept.
- If matches and lighters are found, show an adult where they are and have the adult pick them up (older children can be allowed to take them to an adult).
- Parents must lead by example when they use matches and lighters in the home.
- Explain to children what they should do if they see others using, or about to use, matches and lighters (peer pressure).
- Children learn by watching parents much more than by listening to parents.
- Fire Survival Skills
 - Home Escape Plans
 - Working Smoke Detectors
 - Crawl Low Under Smoke
 - Feel the Door Knob When Escaping
 - Know Two Ways Out of Each Room
 - Stop, Drop, and Roll
- Arson (the crime of) consequences for age 12 and older.
 - Felony Crime
 - Court Hearing
 - Restitution For Damage Done
 - Community Service
 - Possible Detention in Juvenile Hall
 - Possible Removal From Your Home
 - Possible Foster Care Placement
 - Criminal Record, Arson is NOT Expunged at age 18
- Parental discipline should be positive and emphasize the behavior the parents hope to see in the future.
- The importance of proper supervision (especially with younger children).