



The Marysville Division of Fire's Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Program

OUR PROGRAM

- ❖ The Marysville Division of Fire Intervention Program has been established to help reduce the number of fires started by juveniles within our community. Our educators are trained to provide short term intervention that is designed to educate parents and children about fire safety and the consequences of fire. Our services identify at risk juveniles ranging from 2 to 17 years old. Our program is also designed to assess the juveniles need for outside counseling or other referrals.

Facts:

- ❖ Fires and burns are the leading causes of injury and death to children
- ❖ Over ½ of all arson fires in the United States are committed by juveniles.
- ❖ The median age on when a child begins to play with fire is 5 years old.
- ❖ Even toddlers can start a fire with a match or a lighter.

Types of firesetters

The curious firesetter

- ❖ This child is curious about fire and plays with it in order to learn about it. The curious child needs fire prevention education and supervision to channel his/her interests to safer activities.

The crisis firesetter

- ❖ This child sends a “cry for help” with his or her firesetting, because they are unable to cope with some trauma or stress. The crisis firesetter needs supportive

fire prevention education and counseling to help him/her learn safer ways to cope with problems.

The delinquent firesetter

- ❖ The delinquent firesetter is responding to peer pressure and acting without thinking about the consequences of his/her actions. He/she needs to take responsibility for his/her actions with fire prevention education and community services that is court mandated.

The pathological firesetter

- ❖ This emotionally disturbed child uses the power of fire to compensate for feelings of helplessness. This child needs intensive treatment in a secure hospital or residential program.

REFERRALS

- ❖ If you know of a child in need of assistance or would like more information about juvenile fire setting, please call or stop by:

Marysville Fire Department
209 South Main Street
Marysville, Ohio 43040
(937) 642-2065

PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY IN YOUR HOME

1. Supervise young children closely. Do not leave them alone even for short periods of time.
2. Keep matches and lighters in a locked drawer or cabinet.
3. Have your children tell you when they find matches and lighters.
4. Check under beds and in closets for burned matches, evidence your child may be playing with fire.
5. Develop a home fire escape plan, practice it with your children and designate a meeting place outside.
6. Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching children that fire is a tool, not a toy.
7. Teach children the nature of fire. It is FAST, HOT, DARK, and DEADLY.
8. Teach children not to hide from firefighters.
9. Show children how to crawl low on the floor and below the smoke.
10. Teach children that once they are out of the house not to go back in.

11. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home.
12. Familiarize children with the sound of your smoke detector.
13. Test the smoke alarm each month and replace the battery at least once a year.