



Coffee Break Training - Fire Prevention and Public Education

Intake Process for Juveniles Involved in Firesetting

No. FM-2014-8 July 10, 2014

Learning Objective: The student will be able to identify the five basic procedures in an intake process for juveniles involved in firesetting.

A successful youth firesetting intervention program must have an intake process that includes the following five basic procedures:

1. **Points of entry:** Juveniles can enter programs with referral from the fire service suppression staff, investigators, public educators or on-duty station/administrative personnel.

The referral can also come from partner agencies that include juvenile justice, social services, mental health agencies, schools or other groups. All personnel from every agency must understand what to do if presented with a firesetting situation and how to initiate or deliver the intake components.

2. **Reasonable response time:** Once a youth has been identified, there is a significant but short window of opportunity to provide at-risk youth services. The best window of opportunity to provide successful intervention is immediately after the fire. Ideally within 48 hours of initial contact, the youth firesetting intervention program should make contact with the youth and his or her family. This may be done either in person or by telephone. Once a fire crisis has subsided, parents/caregivers may be reluctant to follow through with fire intervention for their child.
3. **Contact individual(s):** Intake personnel and their availability must be identified. Who in the program will be responsible for taking requests for service and/or contacting families? Will there be more than one person available to initiate the contact? There is a range of options; some programs have one contact person assigned per day, while others have one contact person available on a half-time basis or on-call basis.
4. **Intake forms:** Intake forms may be written or electronic and must be established for each case. A fire incident form should be attached to the intake form if it is available and the referral is through an actual fire response.
5. **Prioritization of cases:** Depending on the caseload, there must be a procedure for responding to urgent cases that require a more rapid intervention.

For more information about youth firesetting prevention and intervention, consider enrolling in the National Fire Academy's two-day class "Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention — Level 1" (F/W0633) by visiting <http://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/details/10525>.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency. Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention, January 2014.

For archived downloads, go to:

www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/coffee-break/