



Rogers Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures

Policy Title:	Juvenile Fire Setter Program		
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to establish a consistent procedure in partnership with community resources for the screening, education and referral of youths who have been identified as misusing ignition sources (matches, lighters or fireworks) or starting a fire, either unintentionally or maliciously.

PROCEDURE

When a juvenile fire setter is identified at the fire scene, the fire officer in charge shall complete a Juvenile Fire Setter Information form (Form 99). This form is to be forwarded to a Fire Prevention Division. In addition to this form, the incident commander must report this involvement in Firehouse RMS in the *Fire Incident Report*. The areas that need to be filled out are:

- Investigation – Incident Investigation
 - Check box stating “Person involved in ignition of fire was a child or juvenile under the age of 18”
- Click Fire/Arson tab
 - Fill out juvenile information (name, age and sex) and add parent information (name, address and phone number) in the notes area.

Parents or guardians who call the Rogers Fire Department for assistance with juveniles who set fires should be directed to the Fire Prevention Division (FPD). Phone contact will be made with the parents within 48 hours by the FPD. The parents will be informed of the program and encouraged to make an appointment for them and their child. A Juvenile Fire Setter Information Form (Form 99) will be filled out during the phone contact.

If a family comes to a fire station with their children who has been involved with fire setting, the family should be directed to contact the FPD during normal business hours. Tours of the fire station should NOT be given to juveniles suspected of fire setting behavior. Children tend to view the tours as a positive rewards for negative behavior.

Program Operation

1. The Prevention Division shall open a file using the information gathered from incident reports (Fire/Police) or from the family when the first contact is made. A scheduled screening appointment with the juvenile should be conducted to determine whether further treatment or education is required.
2. The evaluator will then conduct a screening of the juvenile utilizing the Oregon Juvenile Fire Screening Tool. Prior to any screening, the evaluator must first gain consent from the juvenile's legal guardian using the Fire Setter Consent Form (Form 99A).
3. Based upon the screening, a determination will be made as to the appropriate level of intervention. If the screening reveals further treatment is needed, the Fire Prevention Division shall:
 - Contact the juvenile and guardian by phone and/or letter sharing the result of the screening and the course of action. An assessment score of less than 20 revealing a low to moderate level of concern will receive fire safety education plan consistent with the Prevention Division educational program. If the assessment score is 20 or greater revealing a moderate to high level of concern, juvenile/guardian will be encouraged to seek professional counseling.
 - The Prevention Division shall offer educational intervention, which includes fire survival and prevention and will assist the family in determining a safety plan.
 - After treatment has been terminated and/or educational programs have been completed, the Fire Official or local program coordinator should then perform follow-up interviews to survey the juvenile's current behavior. A primary follow-up shall occur by the FPD 4 to 6 weeks after exit, and a secondary follow-up 6 to 12 months later.