

# Palm Beach County

## Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program



For more information on the Palm Beach County Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program (JFIP), contact 561-616-7033.

The Palm Beach County Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program is cooperatively supported by:



**Palm Beach County  
Board of County Commissioners**

**FEMA Assistance to Firefighters  
Grant, DHS**

**Pahokee Fire Rescue**

**Palm Beach County Fire Rescue**



**FEMA**



To arrange for counseling for Juvenile Firesetters and their families, contact the Youth Service Bureau at 561-712-6640.

# Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Program

*Juvenile firesetters are responsible for approximately 67,500 fires, 230 deaths, 1800 injuries and \$235 million in property loss annually.*

## DO YOU KNOW A JUVENILE FIRESETTER?

**WHO** can be a Juvenile Firesetter? Anyone under the age of 18 can be a Juvenile Firesetter. There is no stereotype to identify a Juvenile Firesetter. They can range from curiosity to pathological. Children who are fascinated by fire are also eligible for the program.

**WHAT** is a Juvenile Firesetter? Anyone under the age of 18 that commits the crime of arson or sets an unintentional fire is a juvenile firesetter.

**WHERE** do Juvenile Firesetters set their fires? Anywhere they can. Common places include under their bed, in a closet, outside with leaves and grass, and on playgrounds.

**WHEN** do Juvenile Firesetters set fires? When they are unsupervised.

**WHY** do Juvenile Firesetters set fires? There are many different reasons why Juvenile Firesetters set their fires. Some do it because they are curious, some because they are acting out and want attention or CRYING OUT for help; and some, but few, do it because it gives them a thrill.



**Palm Beach County Fire Rescue offers a comprehensive Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program that includes two distinct components:**

**#1 EDUCATION/CONSEQUENCES** Parents and their children attend a 3 hour class that includes discussing the fires that were set, explaining why the fire was set, identifying the potential for injury and even death, and creating home safety and evacuation plans. The potential consequences of setting fires are also discussed, such as: restitution, legal involvement, and future goals or possible career limitations because of fire setting.

**#2 COUNSELING/THERAPY** Each family attending the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program will receive an Intake/Assessment with the possibility of 12 FREE, one hour, confidential counseling sessions with a licensed therapist, at the Youth Service Bureau. This helps the firesetter and the parents understand and cope with the seriousness of firesetting behavior.

**Juvenile Firesetters can be recommended to the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program by referrals from: *Parents, School Personnel, Mental Health Providers, Law Enforcement Officers and others.***

## Points To Remember

- Keep all matches and lighters locked up and out of the reach of children.
- Install smoke alarms, test them every month and change the batteries every 6 months.
- Have an escape plan and practice it.
- Get out, Stay out and have a meeting place.
- Call 9-1-1, from a neighbor's house, to report a fire.

