

BULLETIN

NO.: 19-008
DATE: January 16, 2019
TO: All Personnel
FROM: Ty Shimoguchi, Battalion Chief, B1/C
SUBJECT: Burn Institute's Youth Firesetter Program

The Burn Institute's Youth Firesetter Program (YFS) is once again available in San Diego. This program which began in 1989 has been significantly expanded and advanced. The YFS program incorporates evidence-based risk assessment tools and education to intervene and stop the dangerous fire-setting behavior at the source.

The YFS program responds to juvenile referrals from around the county. It provides the risk assessment and education courses *free of charge* to at risk juveniles who are under 18 years old. In addition, it also makes referrals to other community agencies to address compounding clinical issues. This is a *confidential program* and this service is offered in both English and Spanish, with the possibility of other languages.

The YFS program consists of an initial assessment in a casual setting in which confidential interviews are conducted with the juvenile and parent/guardian to determine the reason behind the behavior. The juvenile and family are educated to the consequences of fire play and other fire safety activities.

To support this important program, we need to ensure our company officers refer any at risk juvenile we encounter to the YFS program. This is done with a simple 2 step process:

1. **Provide the family a copy of the YFS program information sheet.**
2. **Complete the Incident Referral form and email it to the Burn Institute and MAST (MAST@sandiego.gov).**

Both the JFS program information sheet and Incident Referral form are attached to this bulletin and should be printed and carried on all apparatus. Additionally, these forms can be found on the WebPortal (in the forms section>YFS Program) and on the M drive (under FORMS>Youth Firesetter Program).

The Incident Referral form is form fillable if accessed on the desktop computer. The Incident Referral form is *not* to be given to the juvenile or parent/legal guardian. The referred individual's contact information is confidential and secure and will not be shared with third parties other than the referring agency.

If you have any questions, please contact MAST or Battalion Chief Ty Shimoguchi at Tshimoguchi@sandiego.gov or (619) 694-7207.



Youth Firesetter Program

8825 Aero Drive, #200 San Diego, CA 92123

858-541-2277 ext. 118 858-541-7179 (fax)

YFS@burninstitute.org

YFS Program Information

The Burn Institute's Youth Firesetter Program (YFS) began as a diversion program in 1989, using education to prevent the youth from continuing to play with fire. Today the YFS program has significantly expanded and advanced. The program incorporates evidence-based risk assessment tools, and education to intervene in the dangerous firesetting behavior and stop it at the source.

What do we do?

- Respond to referrals from county fire departments, law enforcement, school officials, probation, juvenile justice systems, Metro Arson Strike Team, and others in San Diego and Imperial Counties (including self-referral)
- Provide **risk assessments** for future fire setting behaviors
- Provide **education courses**, which are cognitively and age appropriate with the youth and family about legal ramifications, fiscal ramifications, and the dangers to self and others
- Make referrals to community agencies to address compounding clinical issues
- Maintain database of referrals and assessment results for the juveniles

Who do we serve? What is the cost?

- Males and females under age 18 who are referred for fire setting behaviors are eligible for services
- Available in English and Spanish; other languages may require additional time to obtain an interpreter
- Services are provided **free of charge** to residents from the San Diego and Imperial Counties

Why refer to us?

- Each year, Burn Institute serves over 200 youth and their families with this program
- 55% of U.S. arson arrests are under the age of 18, and almost half of these arrests are 15 and under
- Arson is the 2nd leading cause of all fatal home accidents, and fire setting is the largest cause of home deaths among children *
- Almost 34% of the victims of child-set fires are **the children themselves** *
- Fire setting behavior can be costly, dangerous, and place children, families and the community at risk
- Our intervention program gives youth firesetters a second chance, and an opportunity to reach their maximum potential

* Per Federal Emergency Management Administration

The program consists of an initial assessment in a casual setting in which confidential interviews are conducted with the child and parent/guardian to determine the reason behind the behavior. In addition to reviewing consequences of fire play, the family is responsible for fire safety activities including planning and practicing a home fire escape plan, testing smoke alarms in the home, and securing all matches and lighters.

If you have been referred to the YFS Program, you are asked to contact the Burn Institute within 72 working hours to schedule an appointment. The services are confidential and free.

Please contact the Youth Firesetter Program Coordinator at 858-541-2277 x 118 or YFS@burninstitute.org.



Información sobre el programa de YFS

El programa de incendios juveniles impartido por Burn Institute comenzó en 1989. Este programa es educativo para prevenir que los jóvenes continúen jugando con fuego. El programa de incendios juveniles se ha expandido y avanzado significativamente. El programa incorpora las herramientas de evaluación de riesgo basada en la evidencia y en la educación para intervenir y detener el comportamiento de iniciar incendios peligrosos.

¿Qué hacemos?

- Respondemos a las referencias que recibimos por parte de los departamentos de bomberos del condado, ejecutores de leyes, policías de escuela, libertad condicional, sistemas de justicia juvenil, equipo de ataque para incendios intencionales y otras agencias del condado de San Diego e Imperial Valley (incluyendo autorreferencias)
- Llevamos a cabo una evaluación para determinar el riesgo de algún futuro comportamiento en cuestión de inicio de incendios.
- Proporcionamos cursos de educación, los cuales son cognitivamente apropiados, así como también apropiados para la edad. Los cursos impartidos son para el joven y su familia sobre las ramificaciones legales, ramificaciones fiscales y los peligros sobre el mismo y otros.
- Referimos a diferentes agencias de la comunidad para que hacer frente a algún problema clínico que se pueda encontrar.
- Se mantiene una base de datos sobre las referencias recibidas, así como también sobre los resultados de la evaluación aplicada a los jóvenes.

¿A quiénes ofrecemos servicio? ¿Cuál es el costo?

- Son elegibles a servicio cualquier hombre y mujer menores de 18 años que han sido referidos por algún comportamiento de incendio provocado.
- El programa está disponible en inglés y español. Alguna petición para otro lenguaje requiere tiempo adicional para encontrar el intérprete adecuado.
- Nuestro servicio es gratuito para residentes de los condados de San Diego e Imperial Valley.

¿Por qué referirse a nosotros?

- Cada año, Burn Institute sirve a más de 200 jóvenes y sus familias con este programa.
- 55% de los arrestos por provocación de incendios en EE.UU. son jóvenes menores de 18 años y casi la mitad de estos arrestos son a menores de 15 años.
- El provocar incendios intencionalmente es la segunda causa de accidentes fatales en casa como también es la causa más grande de muerte en niños.
- Casi 34% de los niños que son víctimas de incendios son provocados por ellos mismos.
- El comportamiento de provocación de incendios puede llegar a ser muy costoso, peligroso y puede poner a niños, familias y a la comunidad en riesgo.
- Nuestro programa de intervención le da una segunda oportunidad a aquellos jóvenes que han provocado un incendio, así como también les da la oportunidad de alcanzar su máximo potencial.

*Federal Emergency Management Administration

El programa consiste en una evaluación inicial, el cual se lleva a cabo en un ambiente informal donde las entrevistas son realizadas confidencialmente con el niño/joven y padre/guardián para determinar la razón detrás del comportamiento. Adicionalmente, se repasan las consecuencias de jugar con fuego, la familia es responsable de mantener la seguridad en tanto a las actividades que involucran fuego, esto incluye planear y practicar un escape de plan en casa, examinar sus detectores de humo y por último, asegurar cerillos y encendedores.

Si usted ha sido referido a nuestro programa de incendios juveniles, es conveniente que se comunique con nosotros dentro de 72 horas hábiles para hacer una cita. Nuestros servicios son confidenciales y gratuitos.

**Favor de contactar a la coordinadora del programa de incendios juveniles al
858-541-2277 x 118 o vía email YFS@burninstitute.org.**



INCIDENT REFERRAL FORM - Assurance of informed consent protects the Burn Institute, you and the youth(s).

The completed Incident Referral Detail should be securely submitted to the Burn Institute via mail, e-mail or fax and any additional records, reports and photos may be attached or included.

This form is not to be given to the youth or adult guardian. Fill out a separate form for each youth being referred.

The referring agent is the law enforcement, fire service, school or juvenile justice professional filling out this formal referral for evaluation. If you do not meet the criteria, or you are a family member requesting services, please contact the Burn Institute for an appointment.

Ask if the adult from which you are receiving information is the youth’s legal guardian. Although any adult can provide referral information, the YFS Coordinator may only speak to a legal guardian to arrange the evaluation.

The referred individual’s contact information is confidential and secure; it will not be shared with third parties other than the referral source without a court order. The incident information is tracked separately from the youth’s identifying information and is used to generate reports about arson and explosives use for research purposes in collaboration with the Burn Institute and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Youth Firesetting Database Project.

Provide to the youth’s parent/guardian via mail, e-mail or in person, the Burn Institute’s YouthFiresetter Program information sheet and ask that they contact the YFS Coordinator within 72 working hours to begin the evaluation services.

There is no cost for the Youth Firesetter Program and evaluation site options may be available.

COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING OF INFORMATION

This information should be shared with the parent/legal guardian over the phone or in person. Please confirm this information was provided by signing the document below.

- Although any adult can provide referral information, the YFS Coordinator may only speak to the youth’s parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to arrange evaluation.
- It is understood that the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of the youth is responsible for contacting the YFS Coordinator within 72 working hours. If contact is not made within 72 working hours, the referring agency will be notified.
- The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and youth require time to obtain an interpreter.
- The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) has a right to decline the YFS services at any time. Consequences of declining or not completing services should be addressed by the referring agency or legal counsel.
- The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) has been advised the Youth Firesetter services are free of charge.
- The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of the referred youth has received a description of the YFS Program and contact information to reach the YFS Coordinator at the Burn Institute.

Referring Agent Name	Referring Agency	Station/Unit
Phone Number	Fax Number	E-mail
Preferred contact method: <input type="checkbox"/> phone <input type="checkbox"/> fax <input type="checkbox"/> e-mail		
Please indicate which type of confidential reports you prefer to receive and the best method for you to receive securely. <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Report <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Termination <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below)		



INCIDENT REFERRAL DETAILS – Please include only information for the most recent incident for which the individual is being referred.

Incident Date	Time	Location (<i>specific address</i>)	City	Zip
Intent: If the youth intentionally struck a match, used a lighter, created a spark, used fireworks, crafted an explosive device, actively engaged in online or other research activity about fire setting or explosives, engaged in encouraging another to do so, intent should be endorsed. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
Use of Explosive: Any intentional detonation resulting from pressure or sudden heat release. <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Fireworks <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Bomb <input type="checkbox"/> Dry-ice bomb <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Component Explosive Device <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe below):				
Accelerants: Secondary materials used to make the fire burn hotter or faster. Use of Accelerant: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (describe below)				
Targets: The thing(s) or person(s) intended to be burned. Target: <input type="checkbox"/> Match/Lighter/Ignition Source Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe below):				
Collateral Damage: Thing(s) or person(s) which were burned or damaged incidentally without intent. <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (describe below):				
Number of Fatalities		Number of Injuries		Number of Persons Displaced
Estimated Damage Costs		Estimated Fire Service Costs		Estimated Law Enforcement Costs
What is the total estimated cost for services if known – include all expenses regardless of reimbursement: This information assists in compiling an annual report of estimated fiscal costs in San Diego County for youth fire and explosive activity.				
INCIDENT DESCRIPTION: Provide a short narrative and attach any available reports, photos, videos or documentation for this or any prior incident.				

Multiple Incident History: If the youth has ever intentionally created a flame, used fireworks unsupervised or has been present at historical incidents wherein another child was engaged in firesetting or explosives use, multiple incident history should be endorsed.

Yes No

Youth's Name (Last, First)	Age	Gender	DOB (MM/DD/YYYY)	Grade	Race
Last School Attended	Primary Language spoken at home		Interpreter Needed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Street Address			City	Zip	
Legal Guardian (Last, First)			Relationship to Youth		
Guardian's Street Address (or same)			City	Zip	
Guardian's primary phone number			Guardian's e-mail		
2 nd Legal Guardian Name (Last, First)			Relationship to Youth		
2 nd Guardian's Street Address (or same)			City	Zip	
2 nd Guardian's Primary Phone Number			2 nd Legal Guardian's e-mail		