

Youth Fire Intervention Team Mission Statement

The Minnesota Youth Fire Intervention Team's mission is to identify youth who misuse fire and provide prompt intervention, including referrals as necessary, in order to reduce the incidence of youth-set fires.

Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division

445 Minnesota Street #145, St. Paul, MN 55101



Youth Fire Intervention Program

Program Overview





What is Youth Fire Intervention?

A child who starts a fire needs help. Firesetters are often experiencing some kind of trauma, from abuse to bullying to family changes. The child may suffer from undiagnosed behavioral disorders or simply be imitating adult behavior. Regardless of the reason, children die in fires that they start themselves every year.

The Process

Once YFIT is activated, a youth fire intervention specialist will meet with the family. They use a front-line screening tool to determine the best intervention strategy. Every family is different and interventions are tailored to the needs of the child and the family. Common intervention strategies include:

- Fire science education
- Mental health referral
- Restorative justice
- Integrated homework assignments

YFIT Specialists

Youth Fire Intervention Team Specialists are highly trained, dedicated professionals. They attend National Fire Academy 2-day trainings on the local level. They also attend continuing education to stay current on effective intervention strategies. Most of the specialists are certified through the Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board (MSFCB).

There are specialists available to provide intervention services throughout the state of Minnesota.

YFIT specialists are dedicated professionals who are well trained to provide youth fire intervention services. Specialists are located throughout the state of Minnesota

Effectiveness of Intervention

Children are naturally interested in fire. They are highly influenced by the media portraying fire inaccurately. Firesetting may seem normal to some children and families who don't understand how deadly fire is. Intervention effectively stops the deadly behavior.

"With intervention 97% of firesetters will not repeat the behavior ~ Without intervention, 36% will continue starting fires".

Contact Us

Youth Fire Intervention Team
763-280-4609

kathi.osmonson@stae.mn.us

Referring a Child

Referring a child to the Youth Fire Intervention program is simple, all you need to do is call the duty officer or the Youth Fire Intervention coordinator at 763-280-4609 or

kathi.osmonson@state.mn.us

The coordinator will share your contact information with the regional program manager who will contact with the family directly. They will set up a meeting with the family and start the intervention process.

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If you are interested in joining the youth fire intervention team, please contact the youth fire intervention coordinator at 762-280-4609 or

kathi.osmonson@state.mn.us

