

Tempe Fire Department Policies and Procedures
Juvenile Firesetter Referral
305.04
Rev 5-11-07

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the effective utilization of department staff in evaluating the severity of the firesetting behavior and determining appropriate intervention methods. And to provide a guideline for the fire officers on scene in placing the child in the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program.

PROCEDURE

ENTRY INTO PROGRAM

PARENT CALLS INS

Parents/guardians who call the Tempe Fire Department for assistance will be directed to a Public Education Specialist who is trained in Juvenile Firesetter Intervention.

Phone contact will be made with the parents within 48 hours of the assignment (when possible). The parents will be informed of the program and encouraged to make an appointment for them and their child. A *Pre-Interview* form will be filled out during the phone contact.

FIRE DEPARTMENT INVOLVEMENT

If a juvenile firesetter is identified at the fire scene, the fire officer in charge shall complete a *Juvenile Firesetter Referral* form. This form is to be forwarded to a Fire Prevention Public Education Specialist. A *Juvenile Firesetter Referral Follow-up* will be returned to the fire officer informing them of the receipt of the referral form and letting them know what action is being taken with the juvenile and his/her family.

If evidence at the fire scene indicates a youth started the fire, the fire officer in charge must report this involvement in Firehouse 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.

STATION WALK-INS

If a family comes to a fire station with their children who has been involved with firesetting, have the family contact a Public Education Specialist, in Fire Prevention, during regular office hours; Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. A Public Education Specialist will conduct all juvenile firesetting intervention interviews and determine what course of action needs to be taken.

TOURS OF THE FIRE STATION ARE INAPPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME, as this tends to be viewed by children as a reward for the negative behavior of setting fires.

WHEN TO CALL A FIRE INVESTIGATOR

The fire officer in charge shall call a fire investigator any time there is evidence of arson and there are witnesses with information that could identify the juvenile firesetter or suspects still on the scene.

For further information on when to call a fire investigator, please review the Policy and Procedure on Investigator Call-Out, 305.01.

JUVENILE JUSTICE REFERRALS

When the juvenile has been referred by the Juvenile Justice Court they will be assigned to one the Public Education Specialist and will be required to attend all sessions. If they fail to attend they will be turned back over to their Probation Officer. Upon completion of the program a letter will be sent to the Probation Officer advising him/her of the program outcome.