



# YFPI Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

FEBRUARY 2015

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:



- Keep Away:**  
 You can now play it online at <http://www.playsafebesafe.com/keepaway/>
- Reminder:**  
 Please enter all 2014 cases in Image Trend or send the data to me.
- Spread the word:**  
 If you have news to include in this newsletter, email Kathi Osmonson at [kathi.osmonson@state.mn.us](mailto:kathi.osmonson@state.mn.us)

## From the state YFPI coordinator

The Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division is going through some changes and updates so we thought we would freshen up this newsletter as well.

You can look forward to reading current articles, receiving up to the date information about training, local and national trends, intervention strategies and more.

In this issue you will see that a qualitative statistical analysis of our baseline problem was recently published online.

We have trained professionals in nearly every area of Minnesota and are working toward a Y-FAST team with 32 YFPI specialists certified in 2014.

We would love to hear from you and your regional teams!



## 2015 YFPI advisory meeting schedule

Most meetings are from 10 a.m. to noon, with training possibly available after lunch.

Please mark your calendars.

**Feb. 10**  
 Pathways Counseling Center, 1919 University Ave W. Suite 6, St. Paul with Dr. Jerrod Brown (see page 3)

**March 24**  
 1 p.m. in St. Cloud prior to the IAAI

conference. More details coming soon.

**June 9**  
 Maple Grove

**Aug. 11**  
 Maple Grove

**Oct. 13**  
 Maple Grove

**Dec. 8**  
 Maple Grove

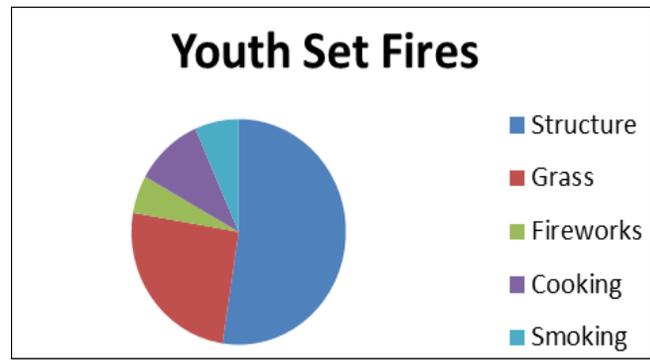
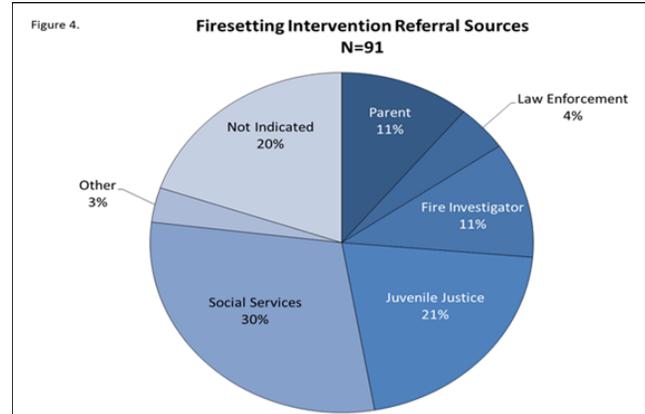
# How many kids start fires in Minnesota?

More children than you might think are involved with starting fires.

How many children have you seen running away from a fire scene at a playground or a porta-potty? Are these fires entered on the report as playing with ignition source or age as a factor, or simply undetermined?

An in depth study conducted by the Department of Public Safety revealed that at least 500 children were involved with starting 300 fires in 2013 alone. The study was based on NFIRS reporting and independent youth firesetting prevention & intervention (YFPI) programs.

Many of the YFPI reports did not appear on NFIRS because they were referred by sources other than a fire call such as parents and teachers. The types of fires these kids were involved in vary mostly



between grass fires or other outside fires and structure fires. Youth smoking and cooking fires were also included in the study because these kids could also benefit from intervention education.

Structure fires may be misrepresented as the highest risk area for youth set fires, but the United States Fire Administration states that most youth start fires outside, where they are less likely to

get caught. Structure fires are where these fires are noticed and often get out of control.

Please report any youth you find starting fires to a local YFPI program or call 1-800-500-8897.

If they simply run away, please make a note of that also so we can gather accurate statistics.

The problem is larger than you might think.

More information about youth firesetting in Minnesota is online at <http://ow.ly/lrbUy>



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# Calling for a Youth Firesetting Quick Response Team

The state of Minnesota needs trained professionals to offer fast intervention services to children who start fires and here's why:

In the absence of federal-government numbers of 2013 Minnesota youth-set fires, the State Fire Marshal Division conducted an in depth analysis and reached this conclusion: approximately 300 fires involving approximately 500 youth were documented or called to the attention of the State Fire Marshal Division in 2013.

This is a very conservative estimate. This and much more data are available in the Youth Firesetting Prevention & Intervention Fire in Minnesota Supplemental Re-

port: [https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/mfirs/Pages/Reporting\\_Statistics.aspx](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/mfirs/Pages/Reporting_Statistics.aspx)

Based on these numbers, each fire department would experience (on average) one youth-set fire every 2-3 years.

However, the Metro area — specifically St. Paul and Minneapolis — experience many more than average. For that reason and others the data makes it clear that a YFPI team isn't necessary in every FD. Greater Minnesota is combining counties into regions to provide intervention services.

We have assembled a baseline map of regions and will keep refining it as the response team solidifies.

The Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association is supportive of this effort and requested a written proposal outlining the procedure.

The team concept will provide fast interventions, ensure uniform data collection and provide baseline expectations of the program managers.

Ultimately the goal will be to identify all the youth firesetters and provide timely intervention services in order for them to stop the dangerous behavior.

We have trained professionals located across the state who are passionate about intervention. They come from the fire service, juvenile

justice, social services, school counselors and mental health, and they're organizing to provide multi-disciplined youth-firesetting intervention services in neighboring communities.

The "faster" the intervention is started, the less likely a child will continue to start fires.

The Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division is committed to assisting with this effort.

We're currently training more professionals and facilitating local networks.

If you have any questions please contact Kathi Osmonson at 651-201-7220 or [kathi.osmonson@state.mn.us](mailto:kathi.osmonson@state.mn.us)

## Mental health expert will attend February YFPI advisory meeting

Forensic Mental Health Expert Jerrod Brown will be joining us for our Feb. 10 YFPI advisory meeting in St. Paul. [Click this link](#) to learn more about Jerrod.

Jerrod asked me to share the following link about [fetal alcohol spectrum disorder](#) with the professionals I communicate with.



# The Paradigm Challenge: Kids providing safety info for kids

Together, we can reduce injuries and fatalities from residential fires and inspire youth innovation to improve health and safety through creativity, kindness, and collaboration.

To get started, please visit <http://www.theparadigmchallenge.org/signup/> to join our growing coalition of fire, youth, and educational organizations. We will then email you a personalized packet that contains

the below materials.

- Website links & artwork
- Copy & art for social posts
- Dedicated email template
- Email newsletter insert
- Talking points
- Registration widget
- Video embed links
- Unique link to track your promotional efforts

Project Paradigm will award cash grants from a



pool of \$100,000 organizations based on registrations, winning entries, and other demonstrated support for The Paradigm Challenge.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to

working with you on The Paradigm Challenge and are here to help in any way we can. We also are excited to learn more about your organization and opportunities to collaborate on other initiatives in the future.

## YFPI spring training schedule

### YFPI specialist

Feb. 12 & 13 — New Brighton

March 19 & 20 — Elk River

### Program manager

Feb. 21 & 22 — Maple Grove

Feb. 26 & 27 — Maple Grove

### To register:

Go online to [fire.state.mn.us](http://fire.state.mn.us) and click on course registration on the left side of the homepage.

## 32 YFPI specialists certified in 2014

Both certifications are now on board!

Please study the manual carefully. As with most certifications, the written exam is quite packed with definitions and details. It is offered at the end of the second day on all new YFPI Specialist courses!

It would be a good idea to study the IFSTA manual prior to attending class if you are interested in testing for State Certification.

IFSTA Fire & Life Safety Educator is the official manual

Register at [www.msfc.org](http://www.msfc.org)



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