



YFPI Newsletter

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2015

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:



- **MN County Mental Health Crisis phone numbers are online** , [click here](#)
- **Check out our updated website:** new materials will continue to be added and YFPI will now located under fire prevention education and services. www.fire.state.mn.us

From the State YFPI Coordinator

A very special shout out to the International Falls YFPI team; Clayton Barr, Jake Harris and Chief Mannausau, who took the specialist training last summer and in the fall, happened upon one of the most difficult cases there could be.

They handled the case with grace and compassion including driving by the house at night to make sure everything was okay.

This 8-year-old would take fire tools to school, burn things in his bedroom and had no intention of stopping; he just wanted to see what would happen without understanding the consequences. These men worked with this child for 2-hours every Monday night for months.

You can't see Chief Investigator Iammatteo standing behind me in the photo, but he and investigator Sorenson were also instrumental in this case. This child needed mental health care services which are not yet available in that part of Minnesota. The International Falls team has brought legislation forth to rectify this situation in Koochiching County, paving the way for the rest of Minnesota.

This appreciation award was presented at the IAAI conference where many of you told me about the firesetters you are working with. Some asked for assistance. That's why I'm here, so don't wait until you see me — just pick up the phone. I'd love to talk with you. 651-201-7220



2015 YFPI advisory meeting schedule

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

- June 9**
Maple Grove
- Aug. 11**
Maple Grove

**July 30 & 31 Bemidji Retreat—
details on page 4**

Oct. 13
Maple Grove

Dec. 8
St. Paul in conjunction with the Minnesota Fire & Injury prevention group!

Youth Fire Intervention Team (YFIT)

More information about youth firesetting in Minnesota is online at <http://ow.ly/lrb1Uy>



At least 500 children were involved with starting 300 fires in 2013.

The Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association adopted the attached protocol for use throughout the state.

Special thanks to Chief Johnson from Owatonna and Andy Hamlin from Burnsville who helped draft the guidelines and supported the approval process. We plan to launch the team as part of the chiefs conference in October.

Given that there were 300 fires involving 500 youth in 2013 — a significant decrease over 10 years — not every fire department needs their own YFPI program anymore.. The existing programs will stay in place and YFIT will be used similarly to a FAST activation — to assist neighboring communities with expertise and support on interventions where no YFPI team exists.

The intervention will not interfere with any

fire investigation and the team will be activated with a call to the state duty officer by an incident commander, investigator, or administrative staff member who will gather contact information and activate the team.

The purpose of the Standard Operating Guideline is to provide consistent procedures for youth firesetting intervention in accordance with NFPA 1035.

The Youth Firesetting Intervention Team’s mission is to identify youth who are misusing fire and provide prompt intervention, including referrals when necessary, to reduce the incidence of youth-set fires.

Each region, as outlined by the MSFCA regional map, will have at least one program manager. Because of the 2014 YFPI training campaign, many of these individuals are

already in place.

The regional program managers will create a task force of stakeholders that includes social workers and professionals in mental healthcare, law enforcement, juvenile justice, and other agencies that advocate for youth

The regional program managers will also market the program so that Minnesota residents know how serious the problem of kids starting fires — even “just little fires” — really is. Our citizens will also know that there is help available and that they don’t need to feel ashamed about asking for it.

So far in 2015 we have lost at least two children in fires that they probably started themselves. These fires are technically coded as “undetermined” for various reasons.

New Education Materials for Interventions

New Zealand is Minnesota's "sister country" in Youth Fire-setting Prevention and Intervention.

The two are similar in size, yet Minnesota has 25 percent more residents.

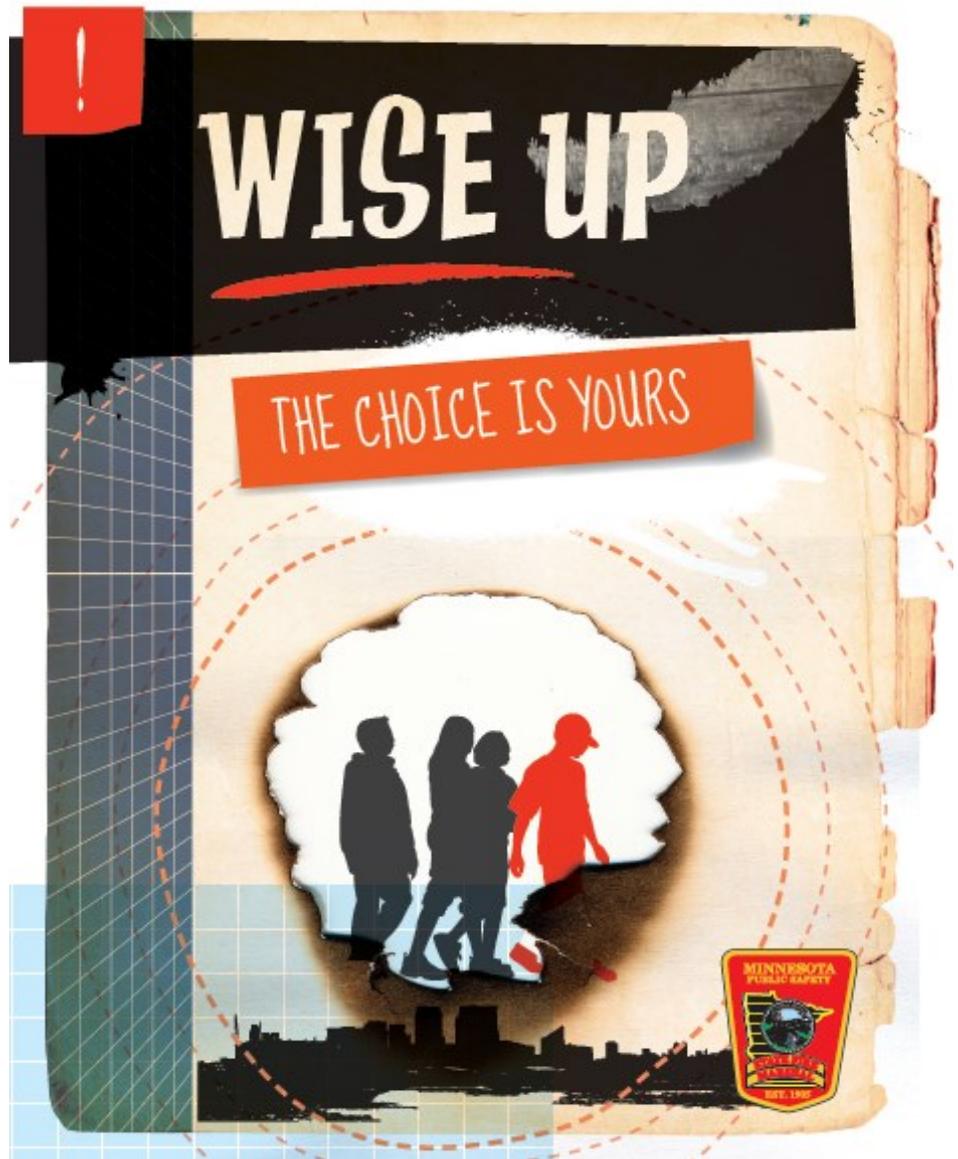
The New Zealand Fire Service is a country-wide fire department with unified protocols, including their Fire Awareness and Intervention Program.. This is a workbook that they edited for us into "American English" and granted us permission to print and use in Minnesota!

There are many firesetting prevention activities in the book, including a sticker page and other fun and educational exercises.

Printing is underway as I write, and you can start looking for it at our annual conference. We are starting with an order of 5,000 booklets to distribute to fire departments and YFIT members.

If you are interested in getting some workbooks for your team, contact Kathi Osmonson at Kathi.osmonson@state.mn.us.

Stay tuned for more great ideas from our new "little sister."



Haven't signed up for the Fire Marshal Conference?

Register now! Send the attached registration form to:

State Fire Marshal Division

445 Minnesota Street Suite 125

St. Paul, MN 55101

For information contact: kevin.mcginity@state.mn.us

**First Annual YFPI / YFIT Retreat
July 30 & 31, 2015
Bemidji Fire Department**

July 30, 2015

8am—noon

Mental Health as it relates to youth firesetting intervention and beyond—by Jerrod Brown & Ruth Herrnstein (?)

1—5pm

Lessons learned from the New Zealand Fire Service and the Ireland Fire Foundation —Kathi Osmonson and Michael Flanagan

6pm

Dinner & Networking

July 31, 2015

8—10am New assessment tool roundtable

10:30a.m.—12:30 p.m. YFPI / YFIT meeting

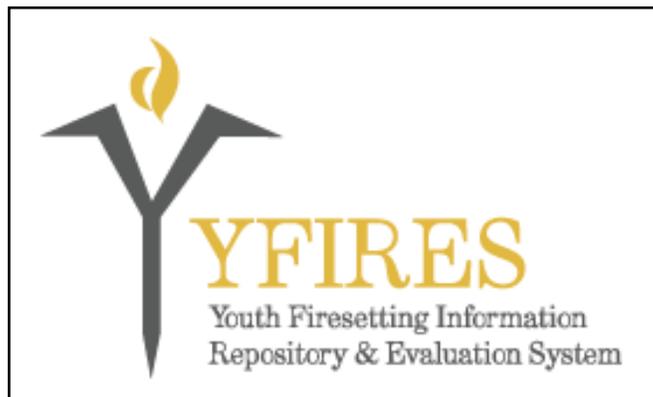
1—5pm Planning for the future of YFPI / YFIT

This is a first draft agenda—if there is anything you would like to see added to this agenda

IAFF national database update:

The State Fire Marshal Division and Regions Hospital are assisting with beta-testing of the national database.

For the next two months we will enter case management data that includes all fields instead of the 12 used in the 2014 pilot test.



The project has been branded with the logo above to appeal to a wide variety of agencies. The goal is that everyone working on fire interventions with kids can enter all their data. There will be locks on personal or medical information, but when we pull data out, we will have an accurate picture of what our nationwide youth firesetting problem really is, and we can evaluate the effectiveness of our intervention strategies. The project is set to launch this summer.

Thanks for all that you do!



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