



YFPI Newsletter

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

JUNE 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:



This year's Summer Summit & Training in Bemidji has been cancelled due to lack of registration.

Please stay tuned for information on rescheduling date(s).

From the Minnesota Youth Fire Prevention & Intervention Coordinator

Greetings YFPI Professionals! Summer is upon us, and this is typically our busiest time for youth-set fires. Please be aware of youth who are misusing fire in your community, especially fire-works, and refer them into your program.

If you need assistance with an assessment, or finding a local program, please contact your local Youth Fire Intervention Team program manager or me. Your program managers can be found by [clicking here](#).

This summer's scheduled summit and training meeting in Bemidji has been cancelled due to lack of registration. Summer is a busy time for everyone, and we are working to reschedule this important training. If there are topics you would like to see presented, please let us know.

As you may have heard, I will be taking on some fire & life safety education responsibilities. I will continue to support YFPI and the Youth Fire Intervention statewide

team. Regional meetings for this year have nearly been completed. I will share the results with you in the next newsletter. If you have questions or comments [click here](#).



2016 YFPI Advisory Schedule

In May the advisory committee met in conjunction with the chiefs public committee. We determined that the public committee has a full agenda and that YFPI really warrants its own meeting.

This summer is focused on the ten regional meetings and the advisory com-

mittee will reconvene in mid November with a similar meeting as we held last November in St. Paul.

Program managers, if you haven't scheduled your regional meeting please do so soon so the statewide needs can be addressed and met prior to our November meeting.

Youth Fire Intervention Team

If you know someone who is interested in YFIT please let [Kathi know](#).

The Minnesota Youth Fire Intervention Team started breaking out in regional team meetings this spring and continues this summer.

While it seems that some of these meetings are not very well attended, we are having successful meetings with more participation than we had last year at this time!

In most regions, some needs have been identified, including the need for more ideas about how to reach out to multidisciplinary stakeholders. Gathering stakeholders is an important part of building a successful youth fire intervention program. County websites are a great place to start.

Most counties in Minnesota will have their child and human services programs listed on the website. If you contact the director, who is likely listed on the website, they can point you in the right direction to other

partners whose mission is to help kids in need. If we inform these folks of the importance of youth fire intervention, they may be interested in joining the team!

Another area of need was financial. Many regions utilize members of full time fire departments as both regional program managers and specialists in the field. However, there are many volunteer departments throughout Minnesota and there are some basic operational expenses that need to be met. Please work with your program manager if you are thinking about reaching out for funding.

When thinking about funding sources, think about what organizations and businesses are in your area. Insurance companies are a likely target; preventing youth-set fires will save them money in property damage. Also think about your Kiwanis, Rotary or Lions Club or other chari-

table organizations. They are always in need of presenters at their training meetings. If you present YFPI to them, they may be interested in contributing to the cause. (If you want a premade PowerPoint presentation for this, just let [Kathi know](#).)

If you have a hospital in your area, they may be willing to help sponsor your program. Board-up contractors may also be interested in assisting with funding. And there are always fundraisers. One Illinois team holds a 10K race as a fundraiser to assist in offsetting costs.

Please know that we are working behind the scenes, in partnership, to address the funding issue as well.

If you haven't scheduled your regional meeting yet, please do so soon, so that you know whose active, you can discuss any active cases and we can address any needs that need meeting.

“Gathering stakeholders is an important part of building a successful youth fire intervention program. County websites are a great place to start.”



Motivational Interviewing

Motivational interviewing is a concept that is widely used by mental health care professionals. It is a conversation that helps the client to understand that they actually do want to change. We can use this approach in our intervention strategies as well. Rather than telling a person what to do, or what not to do, motivational interviewing is based on listening. Listening and exploring what a child's values, hopes and dreams might be. The conversation can be somewhat directed to help the child understand that if they continue to set fires, it may compromise their future. Thus the child comes to their own decision about why firesetting behavior is something that they want to stop.

Of course, we can share fire science and the consequences of fire as we have always done. Instead of lecturing, especially in a one-on-one situation, we can strive to make the intervention process more conversational. While building rapport at the beginning of the session we may ask questions about school or sports. We could insert some questions about what they want in their future. Are they interested in college or college sports? What are their career goals? "Do you want to be a firefighter when you grow up?" is always a good one. Some children may want a military career. Whatever their hopes and dreams are, by listening more we can help them to see for themselves better ways to achieve those dreams.

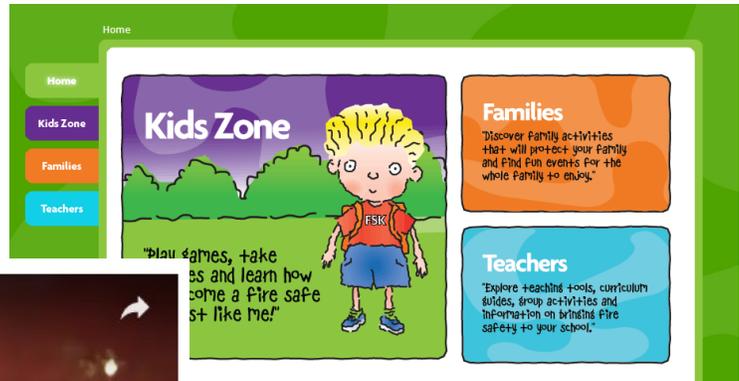
If a child does not appear to have any hopes or dreams, we need to consider referral to a mental health professional. Typically these kids would come out of the assessment with a mental health referral. If you need assistance with a mental health referral, please remember Jerrod Brown is available to consult with you and recommend a local therapist. You can contact him by [clicking here](#) or calling 651-734-5517.

For more information on Motivational Interviewing [click here](#) or on the picture below.



Helpful Links

Autism for First Responders video



Kids Zone is a fun site for children

Free Webinar for Stakeholders



Youth Firesetting Prevention & Intervention (YFPI)

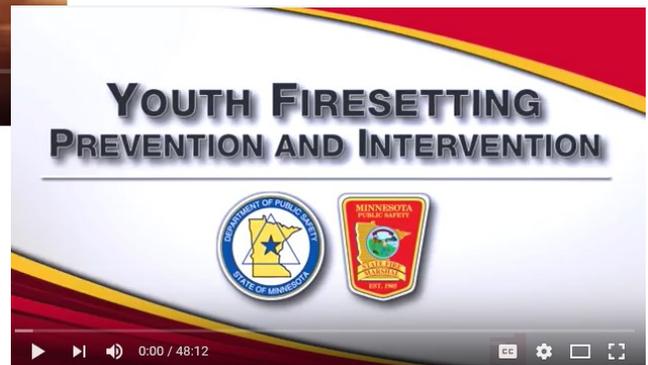
[Register Now](#)



Curiosity about fire is normal for kids. But setting fires is not. With their first birthday candle, we introduce children to the world of fire and the misconception that small fires are easily controlled. Fire is used inappropriately in advertising, movies and television programming, as well as by young people on YouTube. They have escalating access to these media, which contribute to the higher than you might think incidence of youth setting fires.

Consistently, nearly half of arson arrests in Minnesota are youth under 18-years-old. (Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension). Arson is the fourth leading cause of fire in Minnesota. In 2013 alone, intentionally set fires caused nearly \$6 million in damages. (Fire in Minnesota 2013).

Enter discount code KATHI for free access to this webinar



Remember to visit our website, updates are being added regularly. [Click here](#) or on the photo for a presentation on building your

Thanks for all that you do!



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