

## Fast Facts about School Arson

- 61% of school structure fires are arson; 70% of high school fires are arson.
- Fatalities from school fires are rare, but injuries per fire are higher than those of all non-residential structure fires.
- The leading area of fire origin is the school lavatory.
- School fires decrease substantially on weekends and in during the summer break.

*Sources: NFPA and NFIRS*

Every fire, regardless of size or location, is significant and should be reported.

*Arson is a violent crime that hurts everyone.* Proper reporting and intervention can increase the safety of students, staff and school property.

# SCHOOL ARSON



**A CRIME  
TOO DANGEROUS  
TO IGNORE**

***FireStoppers of Grant County***

# Report All School Fires to the Fire Department

## Every fire

Even if the fire is out, you need to call the fire department. Report **all fires** in accordance with RCW 19.27 and with International Fire Code 401.3, "In the event an unwanted fire occurs on a property, the owner or occupant shall immediately report such condition to the Fire Department . . . No person shall, by verbal or written directive, require any delay in the reporting of a fire to the fire department."

## Every time

Every time a fire occurs or evidence of firesetting activity is discovered, staff should preserve the fire location and call the fire department immediately.

## Any size

Every fire starts small. Every thirty seconds, a fire doubles in size and within minutes can threaten an entire school.

The size of the fire does not reflect the motive of the person who started the fire.

## Anywhere

Report fires set in:

- restrooms and locker rooms
- playground structures
- playing fields and landscaping
- decoration on walls and bulletin boards
- concealed spaces (including storage areas) within the structure
- trash cans and dumpsters
- student lockers and personal property
- parking lots and vehicles.

## Youth-set arson fires

Approximately twenty percent of school fires are confirmed to be started by youths under the age of eighteen. A significantly higher percentage are determined to be human-caused and suspicious. Prompt reporting assists in identifying youths using fire in an inappropriate and unsafe way. Unless there is intervention, youths involved with fire once are five times more likely to use fire inappropriately again. Alternatives to expulsion exist such as in-school suspension coupled with accountability programs in the community. Prevention programs that teach youths about the legal, financial and emotional costs of school fires are available from your local Grant County fire departments.

**FireStoppers of Grant County**

This publication funded by the US Department of Homeland Security's Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program