

Of great concern is the fact the number of juveniles who set fires is on the rise, not only nationally, but in Grant County.

A child who is curious about fire may be any age.

A child who misuses fire may be anyone's child.



FireStoppers
of Grant County

Youth Firesetting Prevention Coalition

If your child has misused fire...

Please don't think the behavior will "go away" or that he will "grow out of it". And please don't think this issue can be effectively addressed simply by having your child talk to a firefighter or visit a fire station.

Even if your child started a fire and feels badly about it, his chances of using fire again are high unless he receives individualized attention from a trained fire safety educator.

80% of children who start a fire, even unintentionally, may use fire again if they do not receive education from a safety fire educator.

FireStoppers offers a free, confidential education program for children who show curiosity about fire or have started a fire. The Fire Stoppers program engages children's interest and is informative for parents. The program involves an assessment of the child's fire use, fun age-appropriate activities individualized to help your child learn about being safe around fire, and information for parents on how to keep their whole family safe. For those children who would benefit from additional help, referrals are available for behavioral health services.

The Program at a Glance

Requirements

The FireStoppers program is not a "class", but rather an individualized program to help families address the issue of child fire use. Children are eligible if they live in Grant County, are not being investigated for a fire related crime, and the child's legal guardian is willing to be present for the entire program.

Location

Sessions are held at your local fire station. Appointments (90 minutes) are required, and are available during normal business hours.

Program Outline

The FireStoppers intervention team, typically consisting of a firefighter and a fire educator, meet in a non-threatening and confidential atmosphere with the child and family. A brief interview of the child and the child's parent/caregiver gives information from which an individualized education program is developed for the child.

Emphasis is placed on fire behavior, taking personal responsibility for safety, learning good choice making skills, match/lighter safety, legal implications of fire use, and parental roles.

Parents are provided with a handbook with detailed information on addressing firesetting behavior. Homework is provided for the child and family to reinforce the concepts introduced during the assessment.

Enrollment

Children may be enrolled in the FireStoppers Program by their parents or through police or court referrals. Parents or legal guardians are expected to participate along with their child. There is no fee for the FireStoppers Program.

Contact for Help

Concerned parents should call the Multi-Agency Communications Center's 24-hour non-emergency line at

509-762-1160

to request contact from their local fire department.



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