

# Tucson Fire Department

## Facts About Youth Fire Setting

- Roughly 50,000 fires are started by children each year
- These fires resulted in roughly 80 deaths, 860 injuries and \$235 million in damages
- Males are more likely to start fires than females
- Lighters were the heat source in more than half of youth set fires
- 39% of youth set fires begin in the child's bedroom
- Roughly 45% of arson arrests are youths

## Contacts

### 8 and Older/Court Ordered

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### Children 7 and Under

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**Youth Fire Setting Intervention Program**

# Youth Fire Setting Intervention Program

## Purpose of the Youth Fire Setting Intervention Program

Children are naturally curious about fire and if that curiosity is left unchecked and unsupervised psychological and social influences can lead to increased risk taking with fire.

As children develop and mature it is necessary to teach fire safety practices and identify those children who present a fire risk to the community.

The YFS program was created to address the dangers of youth fire setting and prevent children from engaging in future criminal behavior.

## Ages 8 and Older

This class is provided to youth offenders who are older than age 7 or who have been ordered by the courts to attend a fire setting intervention class.

The class is provided one Saturday a month and is intended to educate older children about the dangers of fire and the legal consequences of fire setting.

The class is open to any child over age 7 who has displayed an interest in fire setting or who has actively engaged in fire play behavior. **It is mandatory that a parent or legal guardian attend the class with their child.**

Reservations can be made by contacting Inspector Tom Sisterman in the Fire Prevention Division.

## Ages 7 and Under

This version of the YFS program is designed for children 7 and under who have developed a curiosity in fire setting or who have actively engaged in fire play. The class is taught by professional educators who work within the Tucson Fire Department Public Education Section.

The class provides a fire education program designed to teach young children the dangers of fire and what to do if they encounter fire setting tools and materials in their environment. This lesson includes a story, direct instruction, and a variety of interactive games designed to teach young children basic fire safety lessons. **It is mandatory that a parent or legal guardian attend the class with their child.**

This class is open to anyone under age 7 and can be scheduled by contacting the TFD Public Education Section.