Model Performance in Fire Prevention

SYMPOSIUM 2016

Presented by Jas Shaw, Peer Court Coordinator & Civilian Youth Fire Prevention Specialist II at Youth Violence Prevention Council
The Purpose of the Youth Fire-setter Prevention & Intervention Program

- To educate children and families on the hazards associated with fire-setting
- Provide them with the skills necessary to prevent future fire-setting incidents
- Satisfy the community intervention program requirement
• Youth Peer Court Restorative Justice Model
• Proper evaluation
• Youth accountability
• Meaningful dispositions
• Jury of peers
Shasta County Youth Peer Court is a program of Youth Violence Prevention Council

Shasta Youth Peer Court has successfully diverted over 1500 youth offenders out of the Juvenile Justice System since 2003.
Crimes Include

- Weapons
- Assault
- Battery
- Threats
- Drugs
- Alcohol
- Theft
- Burglary
- Vandalism
- DUI
- Bomb Making
- Arson
Hearings

• Shasta Youth Peer Court does not decide guilt or innocence
• Each Respondent has admitted guilt
• No formal criminal charges are filed upon a successful completion of all assigned dispositions
Call To Action In 2014

4 Youth Fire-setters were identified for arson related crimes and had their cases heard at Shasta County Youth Peer Court.
2014 CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

CAL FIRE Wildfires on State and Local Responsibility Areas

Wildfires on State and Local Responsibility Lands
Federal Responsibility Lands

COUNTY BOUNDARY
The Shasta Arson Task Force (SATF)

The purpose of the TASK FORCE is to bring together representation of law enforcement and fire service to curb the rising incidents of arson and other fire-related crimes.
State, County, and City Fire Agency Issues

- Individual agency programs
- No formal training
- Agencies handled independently
- Follow through was tough
- Youth slipping through the cracks
SATF Membership Wanted

- Process to deal with Youth Fire-setters
- Better relationship with Juvenile Probation
- NFA - YFP Training & Best Practice Curriculum
- Follow up for Youth Fire-setters
- Accountability for Youth Fire-setters
- Ability to track data/recidivism
SATF Partners with YVPC For:

- Intake, assessment, & evaluation
- Trained Case Managers
- Four month case management system
- Resources to make appropriate referrals
- Exit appointments
- Database for tracking statistics and recidivism at 6 & 12 months after program completion
NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING
CALIFORNIA STATE OFFERING

February 2015

SATF hosted:

YFPI - I – 16 Hours
YFPI -II – 16 Hours

8 Youth Fire Prevention Specialists in Shasta County
Referral Network

- Child Care Facilities
- Medical Centers
- Parents
- Schools
- Mental Health
- Police
- Social Services
- Fire Service
- Churches
The Screening Process

• YFPI utilizes the screening tool developed by FEMA & USFA

• The screening tool assesses risk of involvement in future fire-setting behavior among youth ages 5-18
The Evaluation Process

- Demographic
- Physical
- Cognitive
- Emotional
- Motivation
- Psychiatric
Assessing Risk

Based on the scored results of the evaluation, youth are placed in one of the following areas of concern:

- Score 429-511 = Some Risk
- Score 511-540 = Definite Risk
- Score 540 = Extreme/Pathological
Defining Risk Levels

“Some Risk” Most common and lowest level of risk, at least one curiosity-motivated event has occurred

“Definite Risk” Anger/revenge related, attention being sought or malicious intent/crime concealment

“Extreme/Pathological” Often beyond the scope of immediate educational intervention services from a youth fire-setting intervention program
Do we have a problem?
55 Child Risk Surveys Revealed

- Low Risk: 13
- Some Risk: 21
- Definite Risk: 10
- Extreme Risk: 11
Two Youth Identified as Pathological
Fire Incidents Ages 5-10

- 1 Fire Incident
- 2+ Fire Incidents
- 4+ Fire Incidents
- 6+ Fire Incidents
Fire Incidents Ages 11-14

- 1 Fire Incident
- 2+ Fire Incidents
- 4+ Fire Incidents
- 6+ Fire Incidents
Fire Incidents Ages 15-18

- 1 Fire Incident
- 2+ Fire Incidents
- 4+ Fire Incidents
- 6+ Fire Incidents
86% of fires were intentionally set
98% Used lighters vs matches?
Demographics of 55 Youth Fire-setters

- 37 live in single family households
- 7 live in foster care
- 48 have an ongoing crisis
- 40 history of emotional, physical or sexual abuse
82% of Youth Live in Poverty
Now What?
YFPI Fire Academy Intervention

- Classes:
- 5-10 Class
- 11-14 Class
- 15-18 Class
- Parent Class
Spring & Fall Fire Academy

• 50 Staff
• 48 Fire-setters
• 38 Siblings
• 65 Parents
• 201 Attendees
5-10 Age Group
11-14 Age Group
15-18 Age Group
Parent Class
In Their Own Words

• Two burn survivors
• A convicted Arsonist shares his story “Life after Prison”
• Fire Personnel
• Juvenile Probation
Knowledge Gained

• 100% of youth knew playing with fire was dangerous and illegal, but did it anyway

• 95% of youth did not know what to do if they found matches or lighters

• 100% of youth did not have home fire drills or escape plans prior to the academy
Recommendations

- Conduct a needs assessment of the youth fire-setting problem in your community
- National Fire Academy Training
  Level I & Level II
- ICS 100 & ICS 200 for Program Executive Staff
- Coalition of Multi Jurisdictional Agencies.
Resources

Fire Prevention Curriculum ages 5-18
Standard Operating Procedures
Family & Child Risk Survey’s
Referral Forms
Release Forms
Marketing Materials

www.yvpc.org/programs
www.courts.ca.gov

www/apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/details/10525
www.apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/details/10527