

Parent Handbook



FIRE **FACTOR**

The Colorado Springs Fire Department Juvenile Firesetter Program

PREVENTION • INTERVENTION • EDUCATION





Introduction

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This **FireFactor+ Parental Handbook** has been created by the Colorado Springs Fire Department to assist you in recognizing and understanding the behavior of youth firesetters and to give you information on intervention if necessary. Included in this handbook are some of the common warning signs and what you as a parent/guardian can do to ensure that your child is aware of the dangers and life-altering risks taken by youth who misuse fire. There are many resources available to assist parents and guardians who are ultimately responsible for their children's actions.

The Colorado Springs community continues to experience many fire incidents originated by children and youth under the age of eighteen that result in fires of varying magnitudes. These incidents range from curiosity firesetting, to those involved in crisis situations, to purposeful delinquent behavior. It's rare, but the potential also exists for pathological cases. The **FireFactor** Program was developed by the CSFD and specializes in the prevention of juvenile firesetting and prevention; there is a unique component of the program with specific information designed to support parents and guardians.

To show the impact of fires set by youth in our community, consider these facts:

- Nationally, 85% of all children killed in fires die as a result of a fire they started themselves.
- Almost 1000 children have been referred to the Colorado Springs Fire Department for youth firesetting incidents over the past five years with 200 referrals in 2012 alone.
- In the City of Colorado Springs the majority of arson fires are committed by youth. This is concerning because from 2009 to 2011 our community's overall juvenile crime rate has increased by approximately 19%.
- Fire and burn-related death is one of the leading causes of accidental death in children under the age of fifteen.

We hope that the information provided in this packet will be helpful to you in your efforts to be an advocate for your child. If you have questions about any of this material or would like further information please call the **Colorado Springs FireFactor Program** at **719-385-5950**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett T. Lacey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Brett T. Lacey
Fire Marshal
Colorado Springs Fire Department

FireFactor Programming



FireFactor is a juvenile firesetting prevention program designed for 6th and 7th grade P.E. and health classes. This media and technology based presentation engages students in a thought-provoking discussion centered on the history of fire, the use of fire in today's media, the social acceptance of experimentation with fire, the consequences of firesetting, and decision making. **The 40-50 minute curriculum meets the *Colorado State Curriculum Standards #3 and #6 for Health and Fitness.***



FireFactor² is a juvenile firesetting intervention program for youth who have been involved in a firesetting incident or who show a great interest or curiosity about fire. **FireFactor²** provides an opportunity for the level of firesetting/fire misuse to be evaluated through an assessment with the child and their parents. That session is then followed up with a 3-hour group class led by fire department personnel and an adult burn survivor.



FireFactor⁺ is a juvenile firesetting parenting program for parents and guardians of children who have been involved in a firesetting incident or show a great interest or curiosity about fire. Typically held in conjunction to the **FireFactor²** program, this educational course provides adults important information from the fire department in regard to home fire safety, warning signs for repeat misuse of fire, review of the impact social media has on our youth, as well as an opportunity for parents to ask questions. A mental health professional is also available to offer education and resources about parenting, communication techniques with youth, and for open discussion and questions.

Youth Misuse of Fire

The term “youth firesetter typology” refers to the classification of traits and/or characteristics that youth firesetters have in common. There may be multiple motives for the misuse of fire by youth; there are often several circumstances that can influence youth firesetting behavior. Youth who misuse fire do not always fit into a neatly-defined typology.



PATHOLOGICAL/ SEVERELY DISTURBED

- Represent an extreme danger to themselves, their family, and to the community
- Uses fire as a means for receiving gratification without regard for others
- “Pyromaniac,” arousal, and fascination with fire are often associated with this type of fire misuse; may set fires to relieve stress

DELINQUENT/STRATEGIC

- Purposeful destructive misuse of fire
- Planned, willful intent to cause destruction
- Often sets fires, discharge fireworks, or falsely activate alarms because of peer pressure, boredom, or to show off

THRILL SEEKING/ RISK-TAKING

- Often very peer-influenced and enjoy attention-getting behaviors
- May try to duplicate dangerous behaviors seen in video games or on YouTube

CRISIS/TROUBLED/ CRY-FOR-HELP

- Often anxious, sad, worried, or have social problems; may act out of an emotional state
- Frequently the misuse of fire is a way to communicate a need for attention or to deliver a message

CURIOSITY/EXPERIMENTATION

- Primarily refers to children 2-10 years old
- Often have natural curiosity about fire with limited knowledge of the dangers
- Lack of adult supervision and access to matches, lighters, and accelerants



The Crime of Arson

The law in the state of Colorado is very specific as it relates to fireworks, reckless burning, and arson, regardless of where the offense occurs. One thought to consider is that a child can be arrested in Colorado for setting a fire even if he/she did not mean for the fire to damage anything or get out of control. Colorado has four “degrees” of arson, a statute dealing with woods and prairies, and a municipal code for illegal fireworks. **Youth TEN YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER can be arrested for any one of these statutes.**

Arson in the First Degree – 18 - 4 - 102:

This crime involves the burning of a building or occupied structure. First degree arson is proved by showing beyond a reasonable doubt that the offender knowingly set fire to, burned, or caused to be burned any building or occupied structure of another without owner’s consent. First degree arson is a class 3 felony.

Arson in the Second Degree – 18 - 4 - 103:

This crime involves the burning of any “property” (other than a building or occupied structure) of another. Second degree arson is proved by showing beyond a reasonable doubt that the offender knowingly set fire to, burned, or caused to be burned any property (not a building or occupied structure) of another without that person’s consent. Second degree arson is a class 4 felony if the damage is \$100.00 or more, or a class 2 misdemeanor if the damage is less than \$100.00.



Arson in the Third Degree – 18 - 4 - 104:

This crime involves the burning of property with the intent to defraud. Third degree arson is proved by showing beyond a reasonable doubt that the offender by means of fire or explosives intentionally damaged any property with the intent to defraud. Third degree arson is a class 4 felony.

Arson in the Fourth Degree – 18 - 4 - 105:

This crime involves the reckless starting of a fire or causing an explosion. The penalty depends upon whether the act endangers persons or property. Fourth degree arson is proved by showing beyond a reasonable doubt that the offender knowingly or recklessly starts or maintains a fire or causes an explosion on his own property or that of another and places another person in danger of death or serious bodily injury, or any building or occupied structure of another in danger of damage. Fourth degree arson is a class 4 felony if a person is endangered, a class 2 misdemeanor if only property worth more than \$100.00 is endangered, or a class 3 misdemeanor if only property worth less than \$100.00 is endangered.

Firing Woods and Prairie – 18 - 13 - 109 AND 18 - 13 - 109.5:

On property of another the offender knowingly and without lawful authority or with criminal negligence set on fire/caused to be set on fire, any woods/prairie/grounds of other description other than their own. Spreading to property of another the offender knowingly or with criminal negligence set a fire or caused a fire to be set, and permitted that fire to pass from their own grounds to the injury of any other person. Firing Woods and Prairie is a class 2 misdemeanor or class 3 felony if the fire was intentionally set.

Manufacture, Sale, and Discharge of Fireworks – 9.7.302 (B):

The City of Colorado Springs municipal code reads as follows: It is unlawful for any person to possess, store, to offer for sale, expose for sale, sell at retail or use or explode any fireworks (Ord. 92-77; Ord. 01-42). Several other jurisdictions within El Paso and Teller Counties have similar municipal codes that refer specifically to the illegal use and possession of fireworks. All types of fireworks with a fuse and/or requiring a flame for ignition are **ILLEGAL** in Colorado Springs and are subject to a fine up to and including \$500.00 and/or up to 90 days in jail.



Youth Misuse of Fire Statistics

The majority of arson related fire incidents in Colorado Springs involve youth.

Youth referred to the Colorado Springs Fire Department FireFactor Intervention program are:

- Ages 10-17
- Predominately male
- Equally lower, middle, and upper socioeconomic class

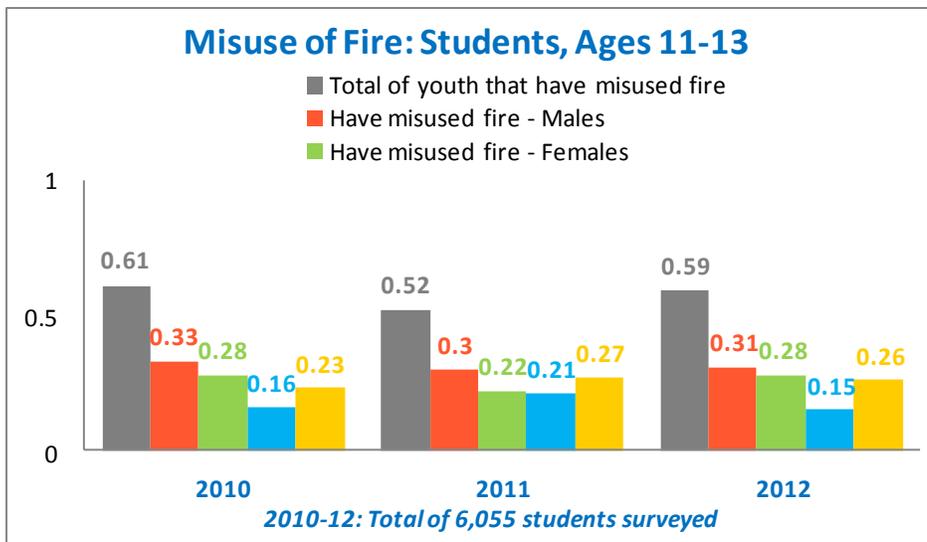


National Statistics-Youth Misuse of Fire (2005-2009) *(from the National Fire Protection Association)*

- Accounted for an average of 56,300 fires
- Associated losses of 110 civilians deaths, 880 civilian injuries
- \$286,000,000 in direct property damage

Colorado Springs Statistics-Youth Misuse of Fire (2006-2010) *(from the Colorado Spring Fire Department)*

- 843 juveniles have been referred CSFD FireFactor program and attended educational class
- 274 fires have been set by youth in our community
- \$1,014,734 in property loss



Warning Signs

The following is a list of “red flags” or indicators that your child may have a serious firesetting problem. If your child **has had more than one incident** of fire misuse **and if he/she exhibits one or more of the following warning signs**, you are encouraged to seek professional help; some behavioral health resources are listed on the last page of this handbook.

- Recent changes in behavior
- Attention deficits, temper tantrums, mood swings, impulsive behavior or excessive anger
- Problems at school, such as discipline, learning problems or unexplained absences
- Other troublesome behaviors such as stealing, lying and drug or alcohol use
- Deliberate efforts to collect fire materials
- Failed to get help to extinguish fire
- Shows extreme curiosity about fire
- Recent losses due to health, divorce, loss of friendships, moves, etc.
- History of being abused or neglected
- Sad, withdrawn appearance
- Poor self esteem
- Family stresses
- Daydreams about fire
- Boasts about fire sets
- Aggressive behavior toward people or animals
- Behaviors indicating they are a loner, a risk taker or a fighter
- Fire set deliberately to harm others or to destroy property





Why Not “Scared Straight” ?

Scary -- and Ineffective

Traumatizing at-risk kids is not the way to lead them away from crime and drugs.

"Scared straight" programs have long been wildly popular in this country as a get-tough response to juvenile crime. They typically involve bringing at-risk youths into an adult prison, where they are confronted — in shocking and brutal fashion — by adult inmates. These programs may include tours of the facility and personal stories from prisoners and may even integrate the youths into the prison population for up to a day. Experiencing the harsh reality of life behind bars is thought to deter kids from a life of crime by frightening them into changing their behavior.

The A&E Network is currently airing "Beyond Scared Straight," a series highlighting four of these programs across the country. A recent episode followed five youths who were brought to the Maryland Correctional Institution at Jessup, which houses more than 1,000 inmates. These youths came face to face with what the A&E website described as "menacing inmates, including convicted murderers, [who] surround the kids and taunt them." The network portrays such programs as effective in keeping youths from becoming lifelong criminals.

Unfortunately, the research tells us otherwise: "scared straight" is not only ineffective but is potentially harmful. And it may run counter to the law.

Anthony Petrosino and a team of researchers from the Campbell Collaboration, an international research network, analyzed the findings from evaluations of nine scared straight-type programs. In contrast to the claims of proponents, Mr. Petrosino and his colleagues found that these programs did not deter teenage participants from offending; in fact, they were *more* likely to offend in the future. Across the evaluated programs, participants were up to 28 percent more likely to offend than youths who didn't participate. To add insult to injury, a number of youths reported to evaluators that adult inmates sexually propositioned them and tried to steal their belongings. Not only was scared straight found not to deter criminal behavior, the study strongly suggested the program caused harm.

The fact that these types of programs are still being touted as effective, despite stark evidence to the contrary, is troubling. In the decades following the original scared straight program, states across the country developed similar models in the hopes that this get-tough approach would make an impact on their impressionable youth. As it turns out, the impact was not the one they had hoped for.

Fortunately, in recent years, policymakers and criminal and juvenile justice practitioners have begun to recognize that answers about what works are best found in sound research, not in storytelling. Evidence from science provides the field with the best tool for sound decision-making. This "smart on crime" approach saves taxpayer money and maximizes limited government resources — especially critical at a time of budget cuts.

In light of this evidence, the U.S. Department of Justice discourages the funding of scared straight-type programs. States that operate such programs could have their federal funding reduced if shown not to have complied with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

So what does research tell us about what *does* work? Mentoring programs have been found to be effective in reducing incidents of delinquency, substance use and academic failure in participating youth. Mentoring is a process that uses positive relationships to teach, impart or institute changes in a youth's behavior or attitudes. Research has shown that mentoring relationships that last at least 12 months or through an entire school year are most effective. Further, youth in long-term mentoring relationships tend to improve their self-esteem, social skills and outlook about their future.

January 31, 2011

By Laurie O. Robinson and Jeff Slowikowski

http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2011-01-31/news/bs-ed-scared-straight-20110131_1_straight-type-programs-straight-program-youths



Tips for Talking to Teens



Don't lecture your teen, have a conversation. When parents complain "my teenager doesn't want to talk to me," what they're really complaining about is "my teenager doesn't want to listen to me." Conversation involves at least *two* people.

Don't attack. The conversation between any two people will break down if one of the two is put on the defensive and made to feel he's being accused of something.

Show respect for your teen's opinions. Teenagers can be surprisingly easy to talk with if the parents make it clear that they're listening to the teen's point of view.



Keep it short and simple. Remember the 50% rule. Almost every parent says at least 50% more than he or she should. Shut up. Remember when you were a teen and your parents lectured at you? And you thought, 'Will you please stop; I already got the point!' Stop before your teen gets there.

Be yourself. Don't try to talk like your kids or their friends. You're the adult, so be the adult.

Seize the moment. A spontaneous conversation in the car or at home late at night -- any time when you're not rushed -- can make for some of the warmest, most rewarding moments. For parents, one of the key parts of having good communication with kids is being around enough to capitalize on those moments which invariably come up when you don't expect them to.



Resource: <http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=52200>



Staying Safe Online

Using the Internet is a way of life for our everyone, including our kids. With technology becoming more prevalent in the lives of children, it is our responsibility as a parent or caregiver to protect youth from harmful outside sources as they innocently browse. Trying to maintain and control the internet is a daunting task. A parent may ask, "Where do I begin?"

- **First educate yourself, then your child.** Banning a child from certain sites may only motivate them to spend more time on them, whereas educating your child on how to keep safe will give them the tools they need to navigate their online world without being hurt; from not posting personal information to a site to understanding that people they are talking to may not actually be who they are. If the parents know the dangers themselves, this sets an example to the child to understand them as well.
- **Teach children the obvious identity rules.** Tell your children NOT to put photos of themselves on the Internet or to give out their names, addresses, phone numbers, schools, or other personal information online.
- **Install an Internet filter or family safety software.** Family safety software is becoming extremely advanced and an effective way to filter dangerous content. Additionally, this software usually comes with tools like time management, remote monitoring and reporting, and keystroke recognition, giving families greater peace of mind and manageability. A helpful site to assist you in choosing the best Internet filter for your needs is

2013 Best Internet Filter Software Reviews and Comparisons:

<http://internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com>

- **Know the dangers associated with sites your children frequent.** Whether it's Facebook, Twitter, or YouTube, by knowing what people are doing on your children's favorite sites that could put them in harm's way, parents can educate their children and show them the warning signs of potentially dangerous situations.
- **Teach children what to do if they encounter pornography on a home or public computer, such as at a school or a library.** In a similar fashion to the fire warning of "stop, drop, and roll," you can teach children to quickly turn off power to the computer monitor and go to get an adult. This can prevent a child from attempting to stop the situation by clicking more buttons and thereby spreading the attack and being exposed to more pornography.
 - **Manage your children's time on the Internet.** Scheduling times when a child can be on the Internet and the amount they can be online ensures that you know when they are online and for how long. By not allowing them to have free reign reduces their chances of being exposed to inappropriate content.
- **Set specific Internet guidelines** for your children to live by and consistently enforce consequences, Giving your children specific guidelines to follow will ensure they know where they stand when it comes to how they use the Internet as well as the consequences when they breach the rules. If a parent enforces consequences consistently, their children will be more likely to follow the rules.
- **Keep computers out of children's bedrooms and in open areas.** With PCs in the open, children will be less inclined to view and access material that may not be acceptable.
- **Create a relationship with your children that is conducive to open communication.** Open communication and trust is extremely valuable. By letting children know what is expected from them and that their safety is a top priority, they will feel that if something happens-whether they are approached by a cyber stranger or bully or receive an inappropriate e-mail - they can approach a parent to resolve the issue without feeling like they are in trouble.



The following pages contain further information, a glossary of terms, and additional resources that you might find useful to ensure that your youth is using the internet safely.



Socializing Online

Social networking sites are how youth communicate online. Kids share pictures, videos, thoughts and plans with friends, others who share their interests, and sometimes, the world at large.

- **Remind your kids that online actions can reverberate.** The words they write and the images they post have consequences offline.
- **Explain to your kids why it's a good idea to post only information that they are comfortable with others seeing.** Some of your child's profile may be seen by a broader audience than you or they are comfortable with, even if the privacy settings are one. Encourage your youth to think about the language they use online, and to think before posting pictures and videos. Employers, college admissions officers, coaches, teachers, and the police may visit your child's post.
- **Remind your kids that once they post information online, they can't take it back.** Even if they delete the information from a site, they have little control over older versions that may exist on other people's computers and circulate online.
- **Use privacy settings to restrict who can access and post on your child's profile.** Social networking sites almost always have privacy setting. Talk to your kids about these settings and your expectations for who should be allowed to view their profile.
- **Review your child's friends list.** Limit your children's online "friends" to people they actually know.
- **Talk to your teens about avoiding sex talk online.** Teens who don't talk about sex online are less likely to come in contact with predators.
- **Know what your kids are doing.** Get to know the social networking sites your kids use so you know how to best understand their activities.
- **Encourage your kids to trust their instincts if they have suspicions.** Encourage them to tell you if they feel threatened by someone or if they are uncomfortable because of something online.
- **Tell your kids not to impersonate someone else.** Let your kids know that it's wrong to create sites, pages, or posts that seem to come from someone else.
- **Create a safe screen name.** Encourage your kids to think about the impression that a screen name can make. A good screen name won't reveal how old they are, where they live, or even their gender.
- **Help your kids understand what information should stay private.** Information like their social security number, street address, phone number, and family financial information such as bank account numbers or credit card information are private.



Resource: <http://www.onguardonline.gov/sites/default/files/articles/pdf/pdf-0001.pdf>



Resources/Glossary for Online Assistance

- OnGuardOnline.gov** – Provides practical tips from the federal government and the technology community to help you guard against internet fraud, secure your computers, and protect your privacy.
- FTC.gov/id theft** – The Federal Trade Commission’s website to help you deter, detect, and defend against identity theft.
- CommonSenseMedia.org** – Dedicated to improving the lives of kids and families by providing the trustworthy information, education, and independent voice they need to thrive in a world of media and technology.
- GetNetWise.org** – A project of the Internet Education Foundation, the GetNetWise coalition provides internet users the resources to make informed decisions about their use of the internet.
- CyberBully411.org** – Cyberbully411 is an effort to provide resources for youth who have questions about or have been targeted by online harassment.
- iKeepSafe.org** – Educational resources teach children of all ages, in a fun, age-appropriate way, the basic rules of internet safety, ethics, and the healthy use of connected technologies.
- StaySafeOnline.org** – The National Cyber Security Alliance seeks to create a culture of cyber security and safety awareness by providing knowledge and tools to prevent cyber crime and attacks.

- Avatar** – A graphic alter ego you create to use online; can be a 3D character or a simple icon, human or whimsical.
- Badware** – Bad software; includes viruses and spyware that steal your personal information, send spam, and commit fraud.
- Backing up** – Making copies of computer data in case something happens to your operating system and the information is lost.
- Blocking software** – A program to filter content from the internet and restrict access to sites or content based on specific criteria.
- Blog** – Short for “web log,” a site where you regularly post personal observations.
- Buddy list** – A list of people who you can chat with through an instant messaging program.
- Chat room** – An online space where you can meet and exchange information through messages displayed on the screens of others in the “room.”
- COPPA** – The Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act; it gives parents control over what information websites can collect from kids under 13.
- Cyberbullying** – Bullying or harassment that takes place online; includes posting embarrassing pictures or unkind comments on a person’s profile or sending them via instant message or email.
- Firewall** – Hardware or software that blocks unauthorized communications to or from your computer; helps keep hackers from using your computer to send out your personal information without your permission.
- GPS** – “Global Positioning System,” a global navigation satellite system that is used in cars or phones to determine location and provide directions.
- Hacking** – Breaking into a computer or network by evading or disabling security measures.
- Intellectual property (IP)** – Creative products that have commercial value, including copyrighted property like books, photos, and songs.
- Limited user account** – An online setting that grants someone access to some of the computer’s functions and programs, but allows only an administrator to make changes that affect the computer.
- Malware** – Short for “malicious software”; includes viruses and spyware that steal personal information, send spam, and commit fraud.
- Password** – A secret word or phrase used with a user name to grant access to your computer or protect sensitive information online.
- Patch** – Software downloaded to fix or update a computer program.
- Peer-to-peer (P2P) file-sharing** – Allows you to share files online-like music, movies, or games-through an informal network of computers running the same sharing software.
- Personal information** – Data that can be used to identify you, like your name, address, birth date, or Social Security number.
- Phishing** – When scam artists send spam, pop-ups, or text messages to trick you into disclosing personal, financial, or other sensitive information.
- Privacy settings** – Controls available on many social networking and other websites that you can set to limit who can access your profile and what information visitors can see.
- Profile** – A personal page you create on a social networking or other website to share information about yourself.
- Security software** – Identifies and protects against threats or vulnerabilities that may compromise your computer or your personal information; includes anti-virus and anti-spyware software and firewalls.
- Sexting** – Sending or forwarding sexually explicit pictures or messages from a mobile phone.
- Smart phone** – A mobile phone that offers advanced capabilities and features like a web connection and a portable media player.
- SMS** – “Short Messaging Service,” technology that allows text messages to be sent from one mobile phone to another.
- Social networking site** – A website that allows you to build a profile and connect with others.
- Spyware** – Software installed on your computer without your consent to monitor or control your computer use.
- Texting** – Sending short messages from one mobile phone to another.
- Tween** – A child between 8 and 12 years old.
- User name** – An alias used with a password to grant access to accounts and websites.
- Video calling** – Internet services that allow users to communicate using webcams.
- Virtual world** – A computer-simulated online “place” where people use avatars—graphic characters—to represent themselves.
- Virus** – Malware that sneaks onto your computer-often through an email attachment-and then makes copies of itself.
- Webcam** – A video camera that can stream live video on the web; may be built into the computer or purchased separately.



Home Safety Inspection



Checklist

**Make sure that your own home is safe from fire and injury risks.
Inspect the following areas where you live and make
adjustments and/or corrections as needed.**

- There is a smoke alarm on EACH LEVEL of the home
- There is a smoke alarm outside EACH SLEEPING AREA of the home
- Batteries in all smoke alarms have been replaced within the last 6 months and all of the alarms work when tested
- Electrical cords are in good condition (not frayed or damaged)
- All extension cords are used safely (not under carpets or across walking areas)
- Appliances and lights are plugged into SEPARATE electrical outlets
- Escape routes are clear of clutter and easily accessible
- Portable space heaters are kept 3 feet away from anything that can burn
- Portable space heaters are kept OFF whenever an adult is not in the room
- The clothes dryer has a clean vent and filter (there is no lint build-up)
- Whenever there is food cooking on the stovetop an adult is present
- Curtains and other flammable materials are away from stovetop
- The furnace has been inspected in the past year
- The chimney has been inspected and cleaned in the past year

Smoke alarms are available at no charge through the Colorado Springs Fire Department to citizens in the community who face a financial or physical need.



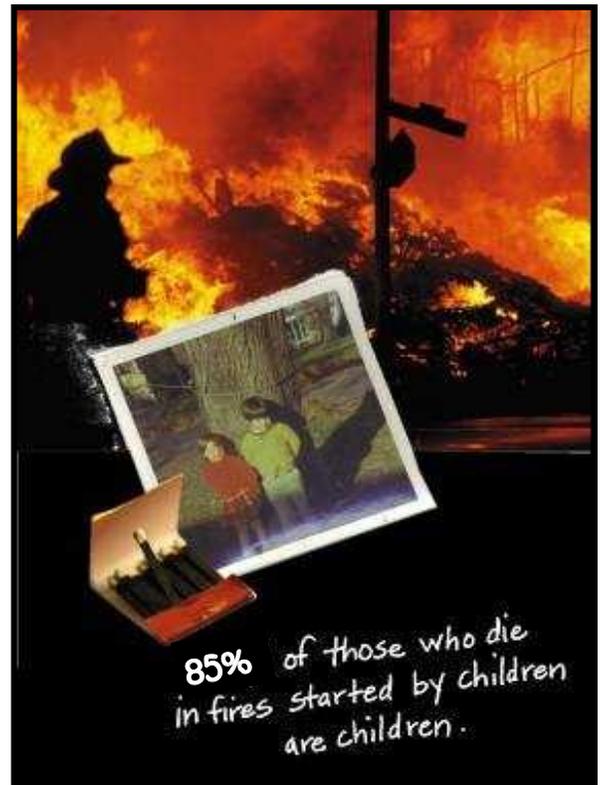
ADD/ADHD and Misuse of Fire

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are often a common denominator with many youth firesetters. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, ADD/ADHD affects 3-5% of all children in the United States.

ADD/ADHD is not synonymous with firesetting behavior. However, ADHD does present behavioral characteristics that, if not recognized, will hinder the firesetting interventionist's efforts to quell the firesetting behavior. If some of the same intervention techniques that help ADHD children succeed at home, in school, and in life can also be applied to the management of firesetting behavior, then successful modification of the firesetting behavior of these children is much more likely. The National Institute of Mental Health has identified the following three characteristics of ADD/ADHD:

- Inattention:** Children may have difficulty focusing on one task for any length of time. They live in the moment and often forget directions or rules given a short time ago. Playing with matches, lighters or candles may result in the child walking away from burning or smoldering objects they have just ignited.
- Impulsivity:** Children act quickly without thinking of the possible consequences of their behavior. They tend to act immediately when encountering interesting objects such as matches or lighters. The sense of adventure and excitement is very high in these children and contributes to the high risk of burn injury.
- Hyperactivity:** These children may exhibit a high activity or energy level. The high energy level coupled with a strong curiosity can lead to fire experimentation especially when parental supervision is lacking.

A diagnosis of ADD/ADHD requires a trained clinician with expertise in childhood disorders to thoroughly test and evaluate the child. The clinician, parent, and teacher should develop intervention and treatment plans to afford this child an opportunity for success. Monitoring and reevaluation should be on a continuous basis. Children rely on parents and caregivers for nurturing, security, acceptance, and stability. When conflicts, distress, substance abuse, instability, or death occur in the home, children become unsettled, scared, angry, depressed, or sad and attempt to resolve the issues in their own mind without having learned appropriate coping or problem solving skills. One way children attempt to cope and express their emotions is by setting a fire. A child's misuse of fire can place a family and neighborhood in extreme danger.





Behavioral Health Resources

Name of Resource	Focus	Location	Phone	Link (www.)
2-1-1	Free, confidential information and referral services	518 N. Nevada Ave. 80903	211 or 719-955-0742	ppunitedway.org/ourimpact/dial211
Asian Pacific Development Center	Promotes the well-being and health of the Asian community	3847 E. Pikes Peak Ave. 80909	719-459-3947	apdc.org
Aspen Pointe	Mental and Behavioral Health	2864 S. Circle Dr. #620 80905	719-572-6100	aspenpointe.org
Cedar Springs	Acute and residential inpatient psychiatric treatment	2135 Southgate Rd. 80906	719-633-4114	cedarspringsbhs.com
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance	Depression and Bipolar Support	2132 E. Bijou St. #112 80909	719-477-1515	dbcoloradosprings.org
El Paso County Adult Protective Services	Assessment, intervention and investigation for at risk individuals	1675 W. Garden of the Gods Rd. 80907	719-444-5755	dhs.elpasoco.com
El Paso County Dept of Human Services	Abuse, neglect, guardianships and conservatorships	1675 W. Garden of the Gods Rd. 80907	719-636-0000	dhs.elpasoco.com
Evans Army Community Hospital	Child and Family Assistance Center - Dept of Behavioral Health	1650 Cochrane Circle - SFCC Fort Carson 80913	719-503-7070	eans.amedd.army.mil/bh
Mental Health America of Pikes Peak Region	Information and referral for mental health assistance	1352 N. Academy Blvd. 80909	719-633-4601	mentalhealthamerica.net
NAMI (Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness)	Support and advocacy for individuals with mental illness	510 E. Willamette Ave. #A 80903	719-473-8477	namicoloradosprings.org
Peak Vista Community Health Center	Medical, dental and behavioral health services to low-income, uninsured and underinsured working families	3205 N. Academy Blvd. #100	719-632-5700	peakvista.org
Penrose St. Francis Behavioral Health	Mental and Behavioral Health	825 E. Pikes Peak Ave. 80903	719-634-1825	penrocestfrancis.org
Rockies Counseling Center	Low-cost counseling services	555 E. Pikes Peak Ave. #120 80903	719-442-0606	rockies.edu/counseling
Suicide Prevention Partnership	Suicide Prevention	704 N. Tejon St. 80903	719-573-7447	pikespeaksuicideprevention.org
TESSA	Safehouse, advocacy and counseling for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault	435 Gold Pass Heights 80906	719-633-3819	tessacs.org
White Bison, Inc.	Native American and Non-Native American	701 N. 20th St. 80904	719-548-1000	whitebison.org



FIRE **FACTOR**



**Colorado Springs
Fire Department
375 Printers Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80910
(719) 385-5950**