

SafetySpot

Community Risk Reduction

# FIRE FACTOR

A COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT  
**PREVENTION PROGRAM**



DIVISION OF THE  
FIRE MARSHAL

PREVENTION

EDUCATION

INTERVENTION

IMPACT

## Youth Misuse of Fire

Summer is upon us and kids will be looking for things to keep busy with their time off. There tends to be a spike of youth set fires when kids are out of school. Unfortunately, children misusing fire is the leading cause of child fire casualties. Younger children are more likely to start fires in their home where older children and teenagers are more likely to start fires outside. Youth arson is an ongoing problem in our community and the Colorado Springs Fire Department wants your kids to enjoy summer and to stay away from matches and lighters.

The Colorado Springs Fire Department has received over 1,000 referrals to our FireFactor<sup>2</sup> program in the past eight years for kids that have misused fire. The program has two important components including a fire-setting risk assessment and an educational class. The assessment needs to be conducted for all families interested in attending our educational class.

The assessment provides an opportunity for a child's level of firesetting to be evaluated and determines if an educational class or a referral to behavioral health is appropriate for that child and family. The educational class explores accountability for actions, decision-making, consequences, fire behavior and a motivational speaker that is also a burn survivor.



Over **14,000** middle school students attended FireFactor in their schools!



Since 2011, **600+** youth have been referred to our intervention program.



**700+** parents & guardians have attended our parenting program since 2011.

# Firesetting Warning Signs:

## DID YOU KNOW???

*In the past 5 years, over \$1,000,000 of property loss has resulted from youth set fire in Colorado Springs.*

- 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 absence.
- 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, 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- Sad, withdrawn appearance.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.
- Fire set out of anger or in response to a family problem.

**CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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