



## Juvenile Firesetting Affects Us All

National statistics indicate that:

- Juvenile firesetting is the fastest growing teen and pre-teen crime in the United States;
- before this day ends, 700 more arson fires will be set in the US by youth under the age of 18;
- these fires will claim over 300 lives and injure 3,000 more each year;
- 50% of those arrested for arson will be under the age of 18; and
- arson is the most expensive crime in America, costing more than \$2 billion dollars each year in property losses alone;

Kansas Statistics (2002-2006) indicate that:

- there were 1,285 child set fires reported by our fire departments;
- these incidents resulted in 5 civilian deaths, 51 civilian injuries and 10 firefighter injuries, with
- over 7.5 million dollars in property losses.

We know that:

- left untreated 81% of these juvenile firesetters will continue to repeat this dangerous behavior,
- EDUCATION and INTERVENTION programs have been proven effective in preventing juvenile firesetting.

For information on what your fire department and community partners can do about Juvenile Firesetting contact:

Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
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Sources: FBI Crime Index, Prevention First, Kansas Fire Incident Reporting System