

WASHINGTON COUNTY INTERAGENCY COORDINATING GROUP *YOUTH FIRE INTERVENTION PROGRAM*

Mission

To provide an interagency forum to educate professionals about youth misusing fire, heighten public awareness about this serious and dangerous behavior and to improve service delivery to youth and families.

Background

For over a decade the fire service in Washington County has partnered with law enforcement, juvenile justice, mental health and schools to provide a continuum of services for youth misusing fire in the county. This coalition of partners has been a statewide leader in supporting a comprehensive multi-session educational intervention for youth under the age of 12 and a diversion program for youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

Program elements include

- ◆ Establishing a community coalition of agencies to address the needs of youth misusing fire or using fire in dangerous or risky ways.
- ◆ Conducting trainings to help community partners identify and assess the severity of a youth's firesetting behavior.
- ◆ Offering screening for youth needing fire education or referral for mental health or other services.
- ◆ Partnering with Fire Safe Children and Families to offer a 8 session diversion program, SAFETY, to hold youth accountable for fire offenses. Due to the focus of cognitive skill building combined with fire safety, it fulfills juvenile department mandates for intervention for youth involved in the court system.
- ◆ Partnering with Fire Safe Children and Families to offer a 6 week FIRE ACADEMY for children under the age of 12 and their parents. Children and parents learn safe and responsible behaviors relating to fire in their homes.
- ◆ Providing screening and fire safety education/intervention for Spanish speaking youth and their parents and caregivers.

Positive Results

Economic-reduce threat of fire and the loss of life, property and natural resources.

Emergency preparedness-Effective prevention education and overall awareness of fire reduces fire death and loss.

Liveable communities-Provide communities where people can live, learn, work and play.

Partners

- ◆ Hillsboro Fire Department
- ◆ Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue
- ◆ Cornelius and Forest Grove Fire Departments
- ◆ Hillsboro Police Department
- ◆ Washington County Sheriff
- ◆ Washington County Juvenile Department
- ◆ Fire Safe Children and Families (FireSafe.us)

Referral Process for Youth Misusing Fire

