



Coffee Break Training - Fire Prevention and Public Education

Youth Firesetting Information Repository & Evaluation System

No. FM-2016-1 February 4, 2016

Learning Objective: The student will be able to explain the Youth Firesetting Information Repository & Evaluation System (YFIRES) data collection project.

Do you have a youth firesetting program in your community? If so, you need to be reporting to the YFIRES. This is a data collection project initiated by the International Association of Fire Fighters and funded by the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

The goal of this project is to create a national database to show the extent of youth firesetting. It can be used by **any** multidisciplinary professional managing a youth firesetting program, such as fire departments, mental health, juvenile justice, burn centers, or nonprofit organizations. The mission of YFIRES is to act as the central repository for the collection, dissemination and reporting of data and program experiences generated by youth firesetting behaviors.

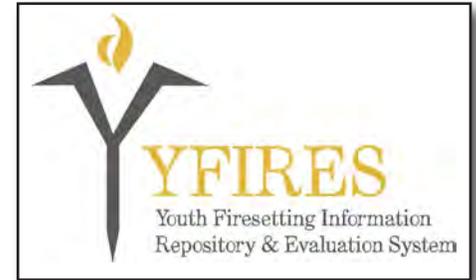
Most programs are still keeping paper records; however, YFIRES was created to be a comprehensive electronic case management tool. It permits local programs to record key data elements without compromising the confidentiality of referred youth. Yet important insight can be gleaned into the type of youth and behavior characteristics common to youth firesetting incidents.

YFIRES is not replacing the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). However, youth-set fires are not always reported to fire departments and therefore cannot be entered into NFIRS. Youth firesetting does not always qualify as a crime, so incidents may not be part of a local law enforcement data system. Experts believe this leads to widespread underreporting of the issue. YFIRES will help fill the gap of reported youth-set fire incident data. This is extremely important for increasing awareness and bringing necessary resources to the national issue of youth firesetting.

A fire or police report is not required for a youth to be entered into YFIRES. Many referrals come to programs through parents or caregivers who are being proactive about intervening in their child's firesetting behavior. Also, medical and mental health practitioners may discover unreported firesetting behaviors in the course of other therapeutic work.

YFIRES is collecting data for youth, ages 1 through 17, who have been involved in a firesetting incident, misused fire, or used fire without the supervision or permission of a responsible adult. A youth does **not** have to set a fire with destructive consequences to be entered into the system. For example, youth should be entered into YFIRES for match or lighter use without the ignition of other items or the ignition of explosive devices including, but not limited to, fireworks.

YFIRES offers guides, video tutorials and a Data Dictionary so everyone entering data into the system is consistently interpreting the firesetting behavior in a similar way. To learn more about YFIRES and how to register, go to <https://www.yfires.com>.



YFIRES Logo

For archived downloads, go to:

www.usfa.fema.gov/training/coffee_break/