

INTRODUCTION TO YOUTH FIRESETTING SCREENING TOOL

The Youth Firesetter Screening Tool is designed for use by fire service personnel to screen youth referred to them for a fire-related incident. This is a basic screening tool. It is used to decide if a youth needs fire education intervention or needs to be referred to other community agencies. The screening tool is only the first step in the evaluation process for a youth who is using fire. It is not a risk inventory, nor does it attempt to predict recidivism.

The information gathered in the screening tool allows both the child and parent/caregiver to answer questions in five different domains:

- School environment
- Neighborhood and friends
- Current Fire Incident, Firesetting history youth and family
- Response to fire
- Crisis, Family Stressors
- Supervision of child/youth

Additional information is gathered from collateral reports and intake information.

The information will allow the Interventionist to understand the intent and motivation of the fire and determine the “Typology” of the firesetting. This information is imperative to identify which intervention is best used with the youth and the family.

Along the way the screener also offers education to the child and family about the behavior, why it exists and services that can be offered.

Children and youth with other significant mental health and family related problems are referred to experts in the fields to address these issues. This screening is not intended as a Clinical Assessment which must be done by a Licensed Clinician. It is recommended that the screening only be completed by an individual trained in administering the tool as recommended by the National Fire Academy and meets the criteria under the Fire and Life Safety Educator Standard 1035.