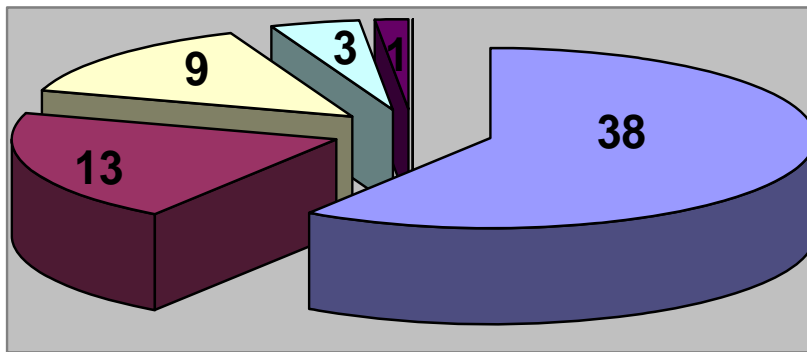


# 2006 Juvenile Firesetter Annual Report



# Recidivism Factor:

## Prior History of Juvenile Firesetters



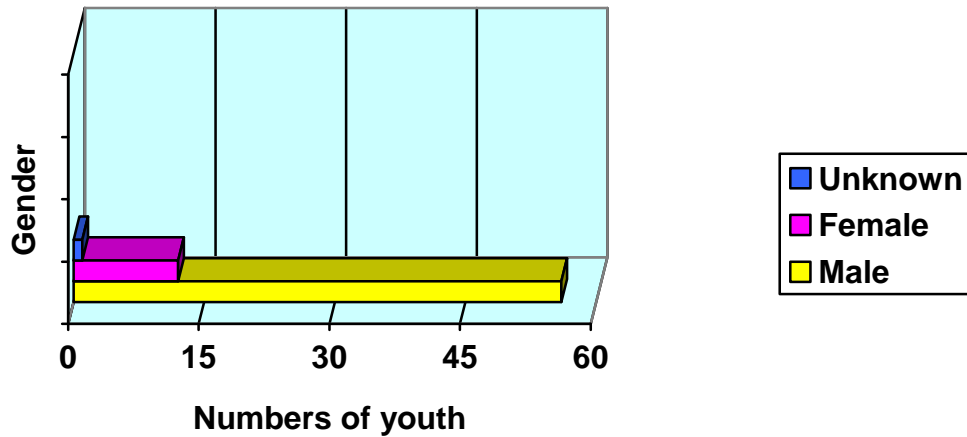
Actual Number of Youth with Firesetting Histories	
Unknown fire history	38
No known fire history	13
1-3 Known fires set	9
4-5 Known fires set	3
6-10 Known fires set	1
10+ Known fires set	0

A youth interviewed for a fire incident is always asked about their previous history with firesetting and misuse of fire, as is their parents. Face to face contact is not always possible with all reported youth due to many circumstances. The category of unknown fire history will normally possess the highest numbers.

## Gender Factor:

As shown below, male children were involved in the overwhelming majority of the juvenile incidents. In the total 69 reported youth, 56 of them were male, 12 were female and one was unknown. The unknown total reflects juveniles who were placed at fire scenes but not individually identified as to gender or age.

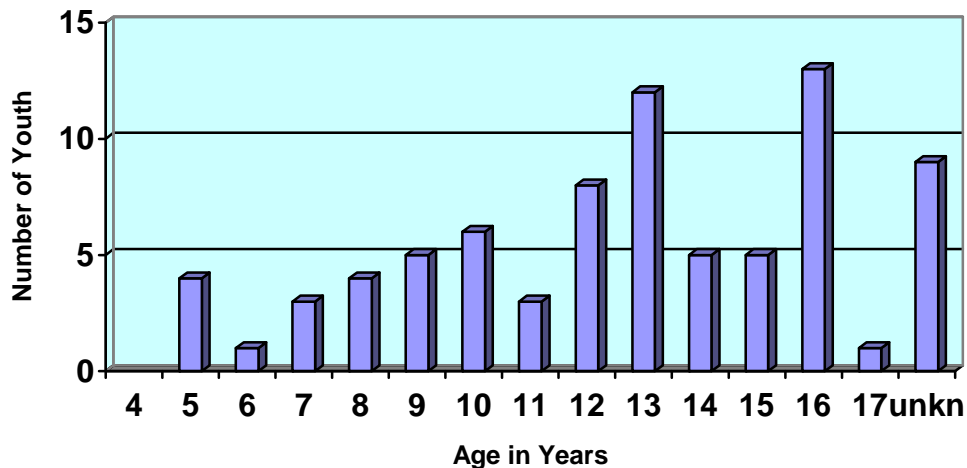
### Gender Factors



## Age Factor:

The ages of the juvenile firesetters that were reported are outlined below. An overwhelming number were 12, 13 and 16 years old, which differs from 2005 where the majority were spread over the age range of 12 through 16. These figures do not account for any recidivism.

### Distribution by Age of Youth



## ***Incident Location:***

<b>Location:</b>	<b>Number of Incidents</b>
School	14
Yard/Park/Landscaping	8
Single Family Dwelling	6
Apartment	5
Street/Alley/Sidewalk	4
Dumpster/Trash	3
Vehicle	1
Wildland	1
Church	1
Commercial Building	1
Other Structure	1
Other Type of Residence	0
Vacant Lot	0
Mailbox	0

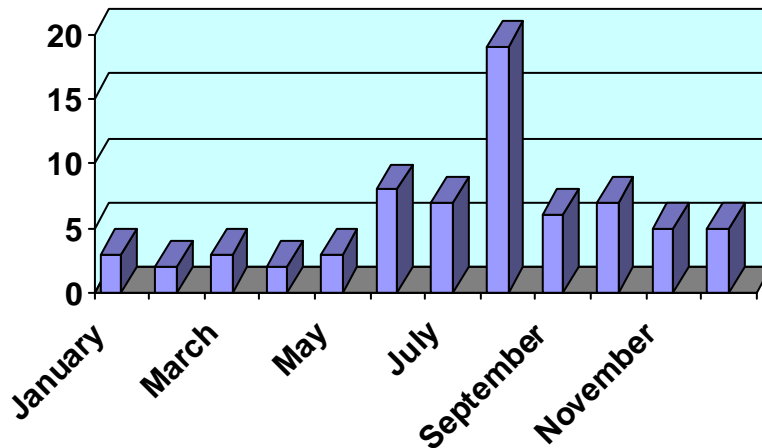
The table above indicates the greater part of the fires set this year were located in the schools, which has been the trend for the last three years. Breaking down the number of fires even further indicated that the majority of incidents occur in the bathroom, where there is no supervision.

## ***Occurrence by City:***

Beaverton	16
King City	0
Sherwood	2
Tigard	7
Tualatin	5
West Linn	1
Wilsonville	0
Unincorporated Counties	3

The highest number of juvenile set fires occur in Beaverton, which is the largest city that we serve.

## Occurrence by Month:



The highest month of firesetting or misuse of fire was in August. This occurred during summer break, when juveniles are historically not as well supervised. However, many of the youth involved had more issues than just lack of supervision. Types of items that were ignited were; twigs and leaves, dumpsters, explosive devices, an abandoned school (paper first ignited) and the stairwell to an occupied apartment building (paper first ignited).

January	3
February	2
March	3
April	2
May	3
June	8
July	7
August	19
September	6
October	7
November	4
December	5

## ***Material First Ignited:***

Paper/Tissue/Cardboard	17
Fireworks	6
Trash/Leaves/Grass/Twigs	5
Match Play	4
Lighter Play	3
Bushes/Trees/Shrubs	3
Flammable Liquids/Aerosols	2
Furniture	2
Toys	2
Bedding/Bed	2
Part of a Building	1
Clothing	1
Other	1

Because the majority of the fires were set in schools, the high rate of paper, tissue and cardboard as the materials first ignited is to be expected. These fires were set in the bathroom and utilizing the most readily available materials.

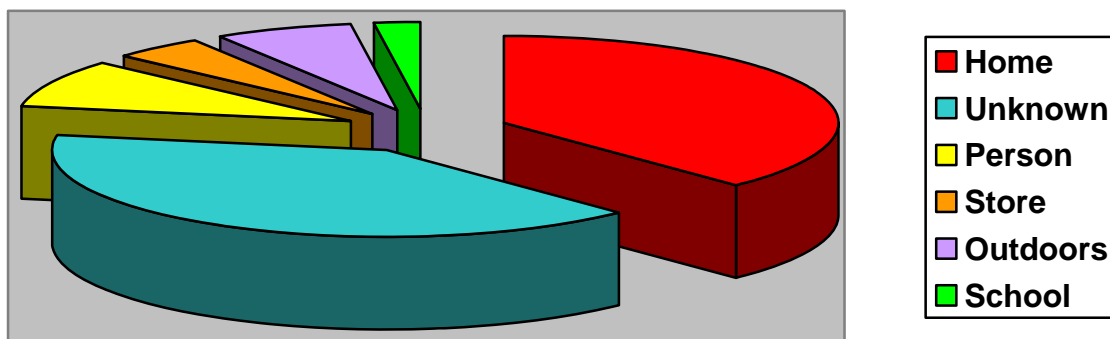
This year does show a decrease in the use of aerosols combined with lighters. This change could be due to non-reporting of incidents.

## ***Ignition Sources:***

Ignitions Sources	
Lighters	18
Matches	12
Other	7
Explosives	4
Fireworks	3
BBQ Lighters	1
Candles	0
Novelty Lighters	0

Other represents tools such as a propane torch and a magnifying glass.

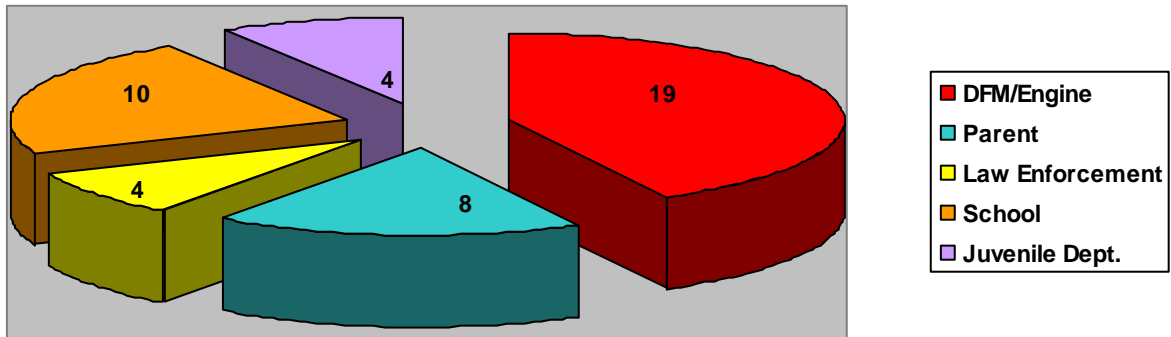
## ***Locations Ignition Sources Obtained:***



Unknown	18
Home	17
Another Person/Friend	4
Found Outdoors	3
Store (Grocery, Retail, Convenience)	2
School	1

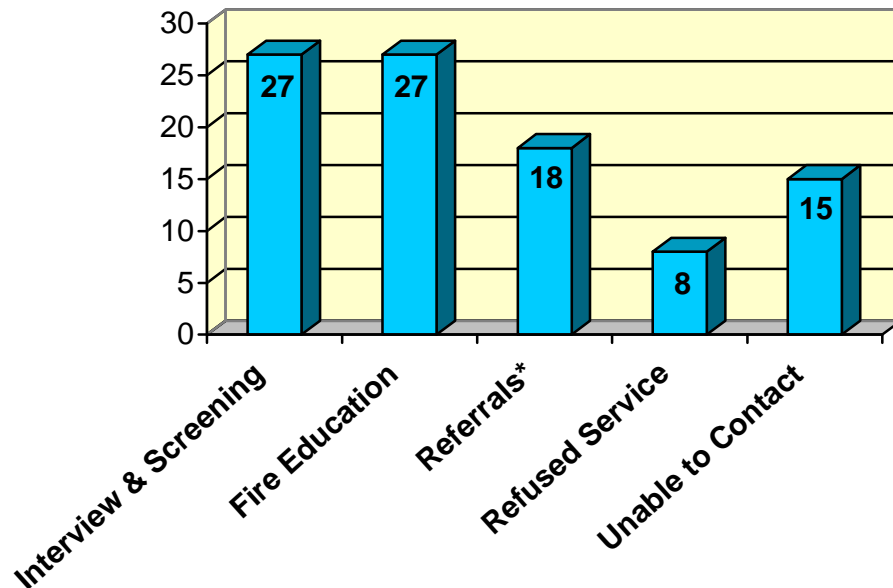
Since not all of the juvenile firesetters are seen face-to-face by the Juvenile Firesetter Interventionist, some information is not accounted for, such as where the ignition source is actually obtained. The leading location of where ignition sources are obtained, is still from the juveniles' home, as it has been since 2001.

## Referral Source to TVF&R:



The majority of referrals come from within the Fire District, either from the investigating Deputy Fire Marshal or from the engine crews on scene. There are also a small number of walk-in requests from parents to address a non-reported incident that happened at their home. The second highest number of referrals come from the schools, and that number may still be underreported, with the school preferring to handle incidents in-house.

## Intervention Provided:



The intervention provided includes using the State of Oregon Juvenile Firesetter Screening Tool. This tool is designed to assist in detecting whether a youth needs fire educational intervention or needs to be referred to other community agencies. It is only the first step in the evaluation process of a youth who is using fire. It is not a risk inventory, nor does it attempt to predict recidivism. After utilizing the Screening Tool, fire and life safety education is provided for every family with whom the Fire District comes in contact. If needed, smoke alarms are also provided.

## **\*Referrals:**

There are several partners throughout the community who assist when a youth needs more than education. After the screening, recommendations can be made to our partners, as needed. The numbers below reflect referrals made this year.

Mid-way through the year, a Tri-County grant was received for the Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah County Juvenile Firesetter Networks. Fire Safe Children & Families was formed with representatives from local law enforcement, school districts, fire districts, juvenile departments and child psychologists. The goal is to assist fire, police, schools and juvenile departments in providing education appropriate for each youth in a classroom setting. It also opens an avenue for assistance in performing the screenings, especially when another primary language is involved.

Now, every juvenile that is screened for firesetting in the three counties is referred for group education. This relieves fire departments from conducting intensive one-on-one education for each of the youth seen.

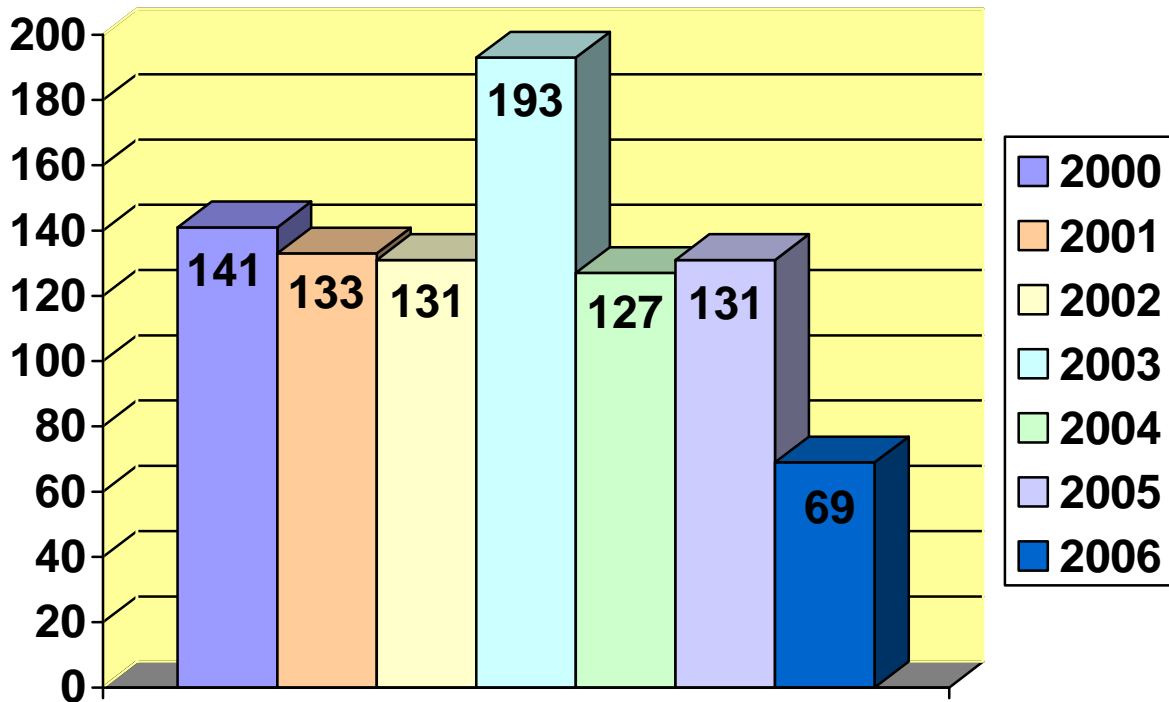
Youth ages 6-11 are referred to the Fire Safety Academy where children and parents learn about safe and responsible behaviors in the home. Older youth, ages 12-17, are referred to the Safety Class, where the goal is to hold youth accountable for fire offenses utilizing fire safety rules and a competency-based skills training. Grants have been submitted to continue the program next year, and efforts will be made to make this program self-sustaining.

<b>*Referrals</b>	
Fire Safe Children & Families	28
Juvenile Department	7
Mental Health Services	2

## Seven Year Comparison:

With the completion of 2006, TVF&R has gathered sufficient statistics to carry out a comprehensive seven year evaluation. The two areas chosen compare are the number of juveniles reported and the months that the incidents had occurred in.

Next year (2007), we will attempt to include the information of why the youth has set a fire and if fire safety education could have prevented it.



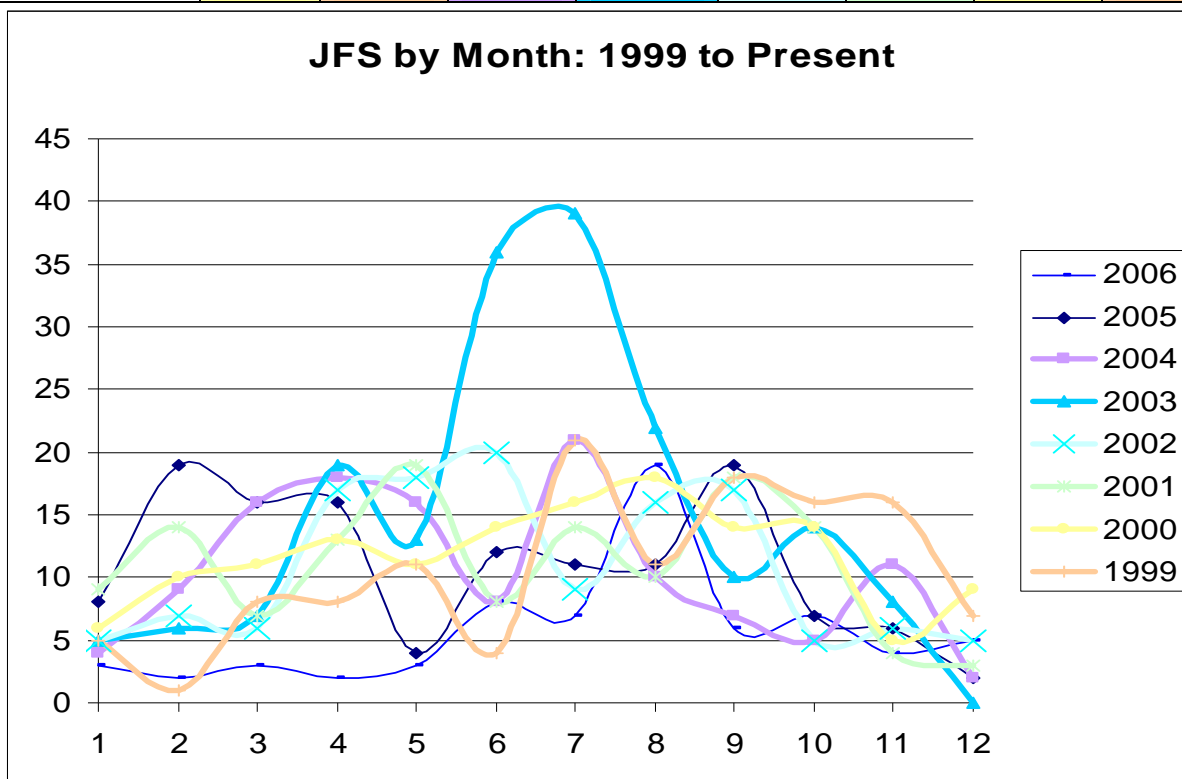
The number of juveniles tracked are all youth set fires that were reported to Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue. They were not necessarily interviewed, screened or educated for such reasons as unable to contact or refusal of service.

When comparing the seven years of history on a monthly basis it was found that there are not any discernible trends or any visible consistent changes that can be delineated with facts. It also shows that 2003 and 2006 are both anomalies.

# Juveniles Compared Yearly-by Month

All historic data recorded to date

By Month	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
January	3	8	4	5	5	9	6	5
February	2	19	9	6	7	14	10	1
March	3	16	16	7	6	7	11	8
April	2	16	18	19	17	13	13	8
May	3	4	16	13	18	19	11	11
June	8	12	8	36	20	8	14	4
July	7	11	21	39	9	14	16	21
August	19	11	10	22	16	10	18	11
September	6	19	7	10	17	18	14	18
October	7	7	5	14	5	14	14	16
November	4	6	11	8	6	4	5	16
December	5	2	2	0	5	3	9	7



Over the last eight years, the numbers of juveniles misusing or starting fires has remained constant, with the average number of reported youth being 132. The two years of 2003 and 2006 were anomalies, for which we have no good data-driven explanation.

The majority of fires occur at school, and more specifically, in the bathroom while the youth are not supervised. The second most common place that fires were started was in the home. Again, the fires occurred while the youth were unsupervised. This year, the Office of the State Fire Marshal has put out a call for action in tracking the use of novelty (shaped to resemble toys or fun objects) lighters in juvenile related fires. The data collected for 2006 has not shown any used in the reported fires.

The common thread through all of the incidents, whether motivated by curiosity or because of a crisis situation, was that none of the youth had a good understanding of fire behavior, fire safety or the consequences of fire to themselves, other people and the environment around them. It was also suggested by the reporting, that boredom and the lack of supervision of youth were major factors in the greater part of the incidents.