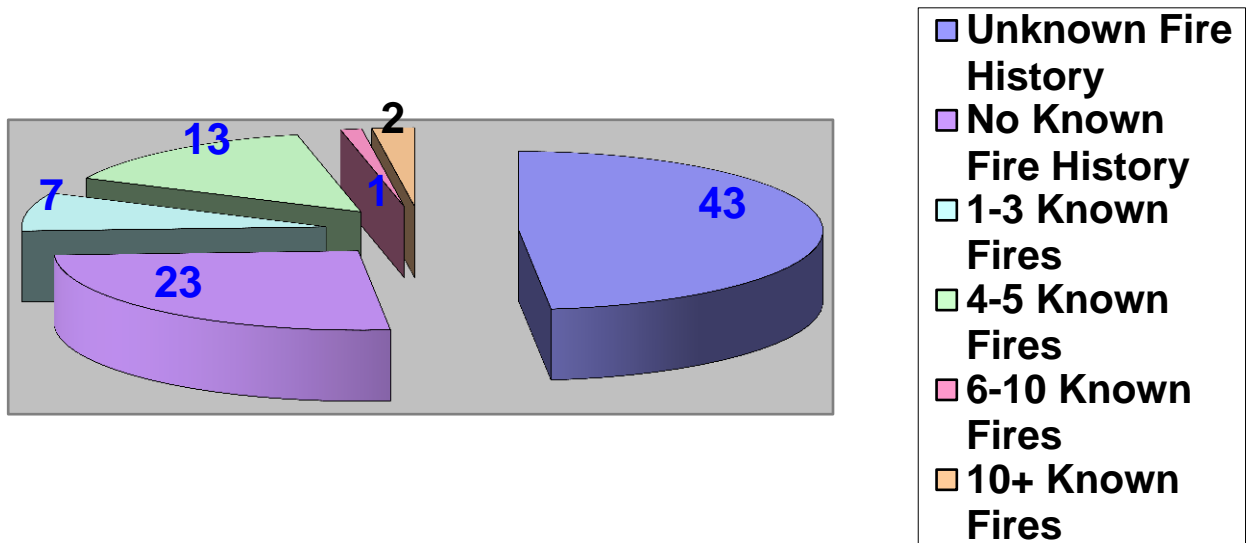




2010 Youth Fire Intervention Program Report

Recidivism Factor:

Prior History of Youths Misusing Fire



Youth interviewed for a fire incident are always asked about their previous history with firesetting and misuse of fire, as are their parents, but often do not provide full information. Face-to-face contact with all reported youth is not always possible, so many are placed into the category of “Unknown Fire History.”

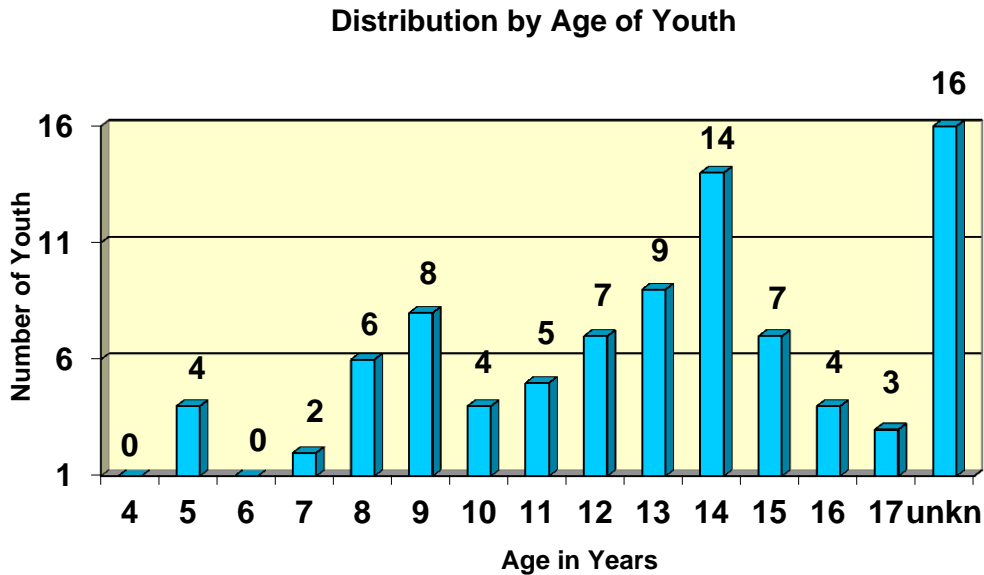
The two categories with the most known fire sets include three youths with previous histories in the District. One is a graduate of the Fire Academy, one was in the system and did not attend his intervention appointment, and the last was not handled by the Fire District (only Spanish was spoken, so Washington County Juvenile Department and Fire Safe Children & Families coordinated the intervention and education).

Gender Factor:

As shown below, male juveniles were involved in the overwhelming majority of fire incidents. Of the total 89 reported youth, 70 were male, 13 were female, and six were not known. The unknown total reflects juveniles who were associated with fire scenes, but were not necessarily identified as to gender or age.

Age Factor:

The ages of reported juvenile firesetters are outlined below. The largest number of youth reported had unknown ages, with age 14 as the second largest group. These figures include the three incidents of recidivism.



Incident Location:

Location:	# of Incidents
Yard/Park/Landscaping	20
Single Family Dwelling	8
School	7
Other Structure	5
Apartment	3
Commercial Building	3
Street/Alley/Sidewalk	1
Dumpster/Trash	0
Wildland	0

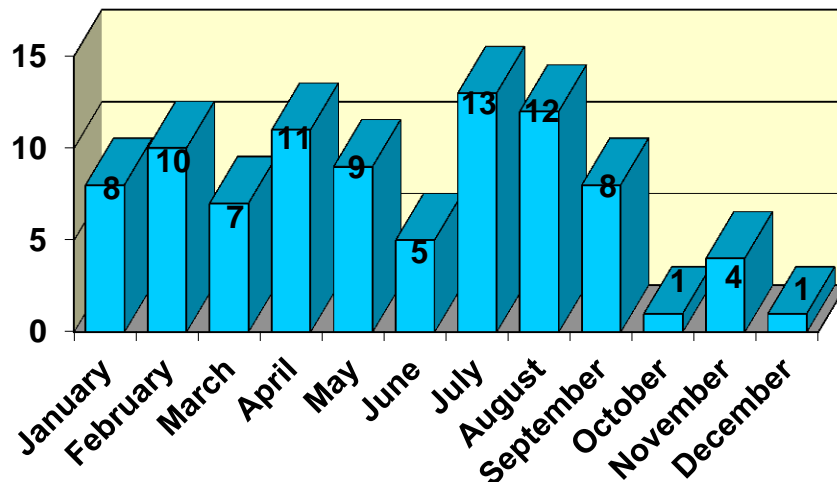
As the table above indicates, the greatest number of the fires set this year were located outside in yards, parks, or landscaping. This is a new trend. In the past three years the highest number had occurred in schools.

Occurrences by City:

Unincorporated Counties	21
Beaverton	19
Tigard	6
Tualatin	5
Sherwood	3
Wilsonville	2
West Linn	1
King City	0

Within TVF&R's jurisdiction, the peak number of juvenile-initiated fires occurred in portions of unincorporated Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas counties. The largest customer city, Beaverton, showed a decrease in the number of reported fires started by juveniles since last year's report.

Occurrence by Month:



The most prominent month for misuse of fire was July, with August a close second. The remainder of the incidents were scattered throughout the year and did not correspond with any particular holiday from school. One notable factor was that more fires occurred during the months with the least rainfall (Mark Nelsen, 2010).

Material First Ignited:

Paper/Tissue/Cardboard	20
Trash/Leaves/Grass/Twigs	8
Flammable Liquids/Aerosols	3
Clothing	2
Lighter Play	2
Fireworks	2
Toys	2
Furniture	0
Cigarette	0
Bedding/Bed	0
Candle	0
Match Play	0
Other	10

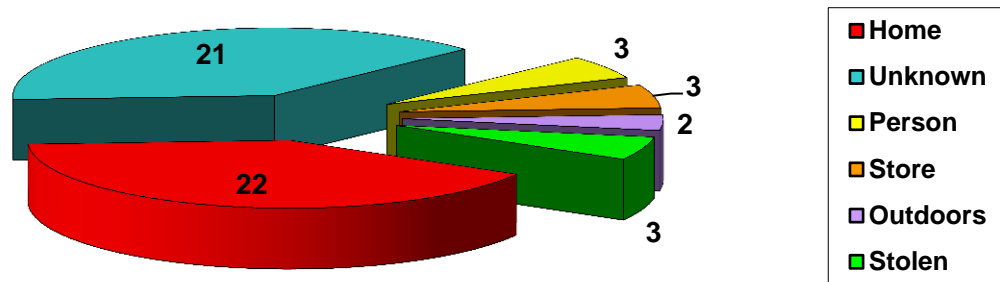
While the majority of the fires did start outside, the use of paper, tissue, and cardboard was most prevalent, as they are some of the most readily available materials.

Ignition Sources:

Ignitions Sources	
Lighters	29
Matches	8
Cooking Stove	3
Fireworks	1 (legal)
BBQ Lighters	1
Candles	1
Explosives	0
Novelty Lighters	0
Other*	11

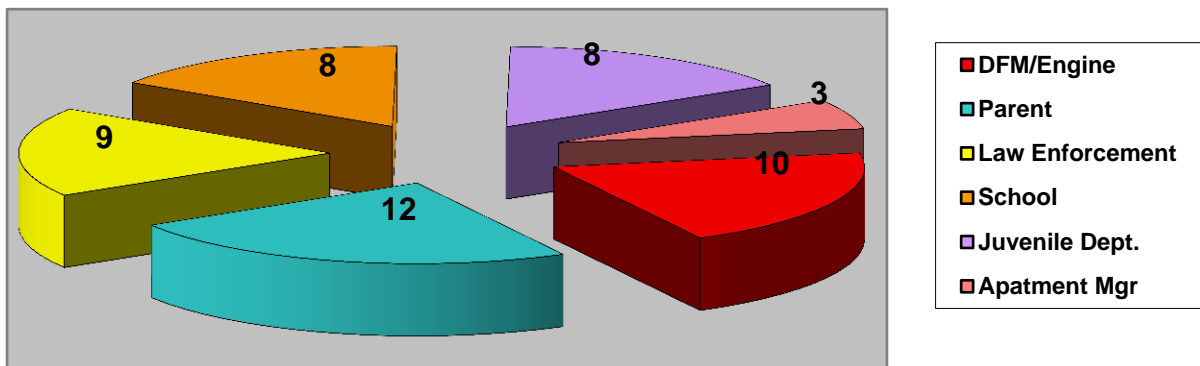
**Represents tools such as a propane torch and unknown ignition sources.*

Locations Ignition Sources Were Obtained:



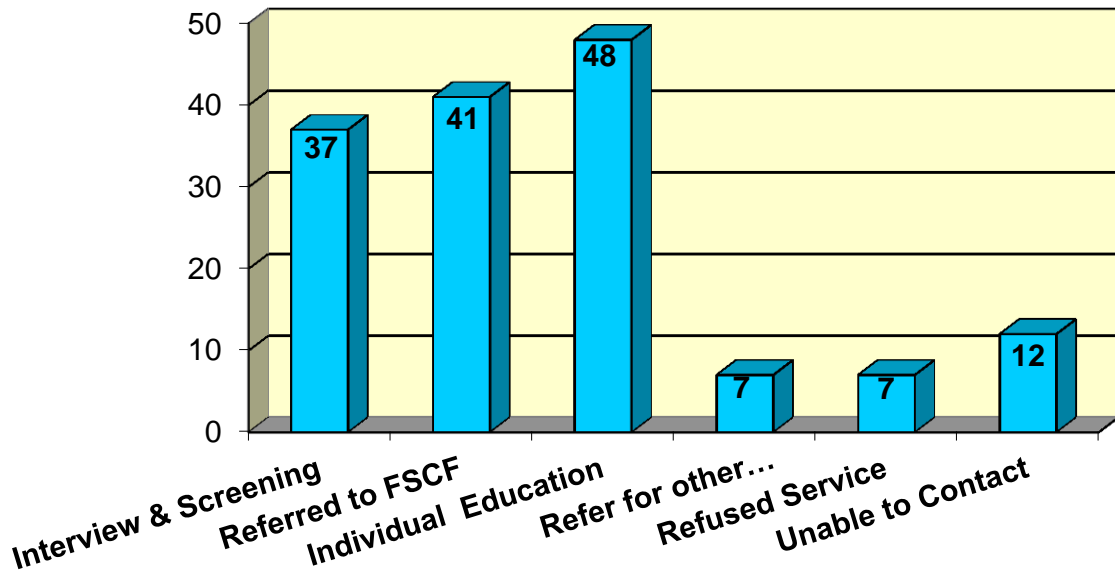
Since all firesetters were not seen face-to-face by the Youth Interventionist, some information was not accounted for, such as where ignition sources were obtained. The leading location of obtained ignition sources remained the juveniles' home, and has been the primary location since 2001.

Referral Source to TVF&R:



The majority of referrals came from parents reporting an incident that happened at their home. Fire investigators and engine crews reported the second highest amount, with law enforcement, schools, and the County Juvenile Department following closely behind. It should be noted that school incidents are likely underreported, as school staff often prefers to handle incidents in-house. A growing area of reporting is from apartment managers and maintenance staff who attend our quarterly Landlord Training Workshop, where youth intervention specialists teach a segment on juvenile firesetters.

Intervention Provided:



The State of Oregon Youth Intervention Screening Tool is used to assist in detecting whether a youth needs fire educational intervention or needs to be referred to other community agencies. It is the first step in the evaluation process of a youth who is misusing fire, but is not a risk inventory, nor does it attempt to predict recidivism. After utilizing the Screening Tool, the Fire District provides either group or individual fire and life safety education for every family served by the program.

Referrals:

When a youth needs more than basic fire education, several community partners throughout the District are available to assist.

In 2006, grant funding was secured to implement a new program called Fire Safe Children & Families, combining the efforts of local law enforcement, school districts, fire districts, juvenile services, and child psychologists with the goal of providing education in age-appropriate classroom settings. Professionals from various disciplines also assist with screenings, especially when language translation is needed.

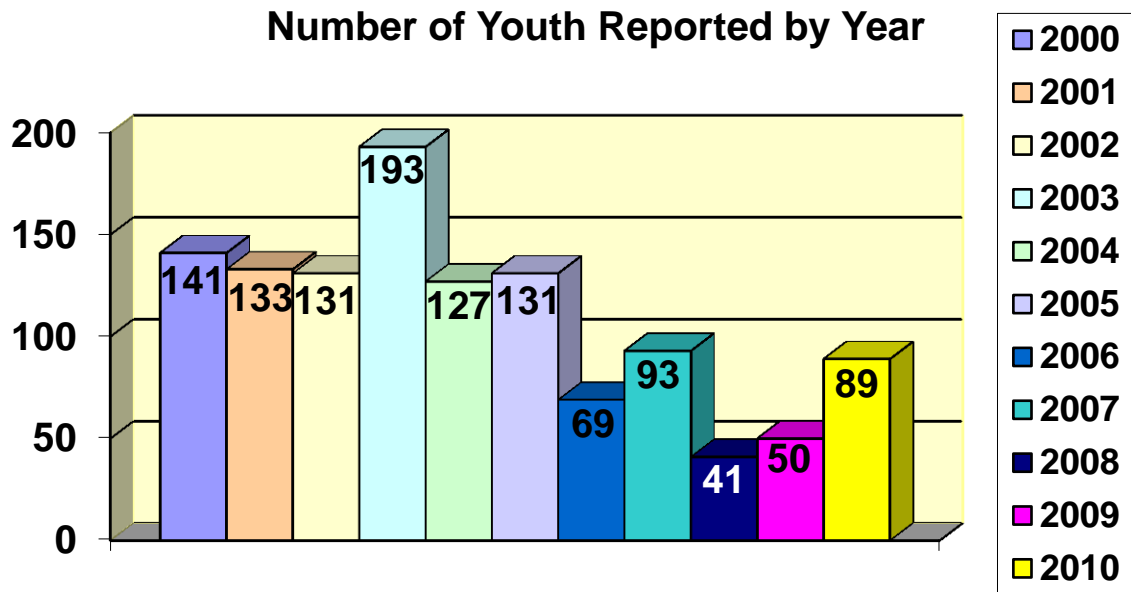
Youth ages 6-11 are referred to the Fire Safety Academy where children and parents learn about safe and responsible behaviors in the home. Older youth, ages 12-17, are referred to the Safety Class, where the goal is to hold youth accountable for fire offenses utilizing fire safety rules and competency-based skills training.

During 2010, every juvenile screened for firesetting in Washington, Clackamas, and Multnomah counties was referred for group education, relieving fire departments from conducting intensive one-on-one education for each of the youth seen.

*Referrals made in 2010	
Fire Safe Children & Families	23
Juvenile Department	2
Other Fire Agencies for Screening	2

Annual Comparison:

As of 2010, TVF&R has collected 11 years of statistics from which to carry out a comprehensive evaluation. Two areas of comparison were the number of youth reported and the months in which the incidents occurred.



The numbers represented above are youth-set fires reported to TVF&R. Most of these youths were interviewed, screened and/or educated in fire safety.

Comparing the 11 years of history on a monthly basis showed no discernible trends, nor could any observable variables be defined. Also, it was determined that the high and low numbers in 2003 and 2008, respectively, were anomalies.

Summary:

Most years, the largest numbers of fires occurred at school, and more specifically, in the bathroom. However, this year most incidents occurred outside. Again, all the youth involved in firesetting lacked sufficient supervision.

Over the last 11 years, the number of youths misusing or starting fires has remained consistent, with an average of 109 reported per year. The years of 2003 and 2008 were both anomalies, for which the data offers no substantive explanation.

The common thread through the incidents 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. Whether motivated to start fires out of curiosity, boredom, or because of a crisis situation, the youth needed intervention in the form of education, counseling, and/or police involvement.

It was suggested that lack of supervision was the single most important factor in youth firesetting incidents.