

Memorandum



Date: April 5, 2013

To: Members of the Public Safety Committee

Subject: Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program (J.F.I.P)

The Public Safety Committee will be briefed on Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program (J.F.I.P) on Monday, April 8, 2013.



A.C. Gonzalez
First Assistant City Manager

Attachment

- c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council
- Mary K. Suhm, City Manager
- Rosa Rios, City Secretary
- Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney
- Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
- Daniel Solis, Administrative Judge
- Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
- Ryan S. Evans, Assistant City Manager
- Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
- Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
- Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
- Frank Libro, Public Information Office
- Stephanie Cooper, Assistant to the City Manager



Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program (J.F.I.P.)



**Fire Investigation & Explosive Ordnance
Division**

April 8, 2013



WHAT IS J.F.I.P.?

- J.F.I.P. is an intervention program targeting children who:
 - Have committed the crime of intentionally setting fires
 - Have demonstrated firesetting behavior



OUR GOAL

To address and deter firesetting behavior through:

Assessment – child and family risk surveys

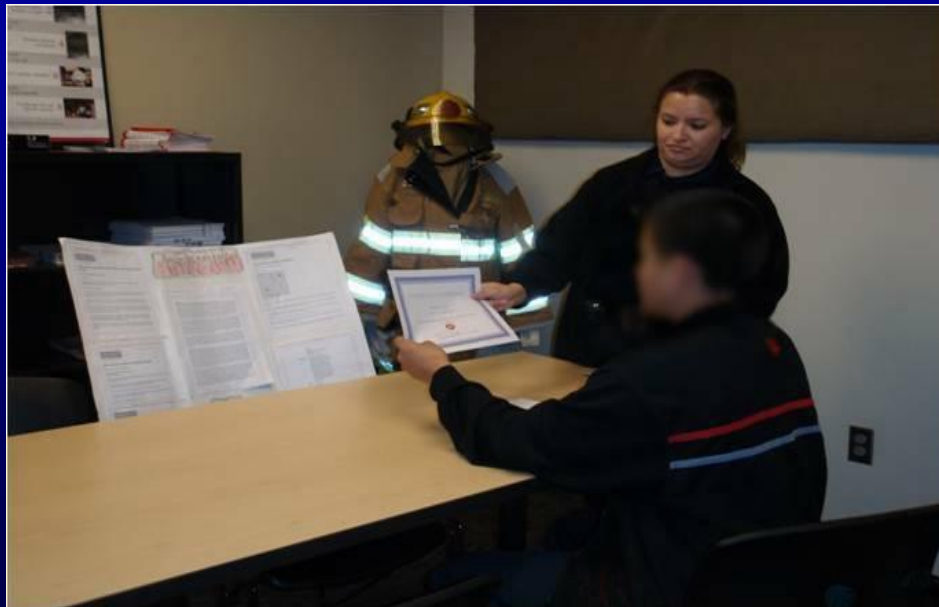
Treatment – referral to professional counseling services
(if needed)

Education – help children understand the consequences
and risks associated with firesetting
– conduct a home fire safety check with parents

WHO ARE THE J.F.I.S.?

DFR personnel trained to administer the National Fire Academy Program focused on firesetting

- Two Specialists
- Plans include training two additional Specialists



TRAINING

J.F.I.S. personnel receive training from:

- National Fire Academy
- State of Texas Fire Marshal's Office
- Mental Health America, and the Home Safety Council



IS JUVENILE FIRESETTING A PROBLEM?

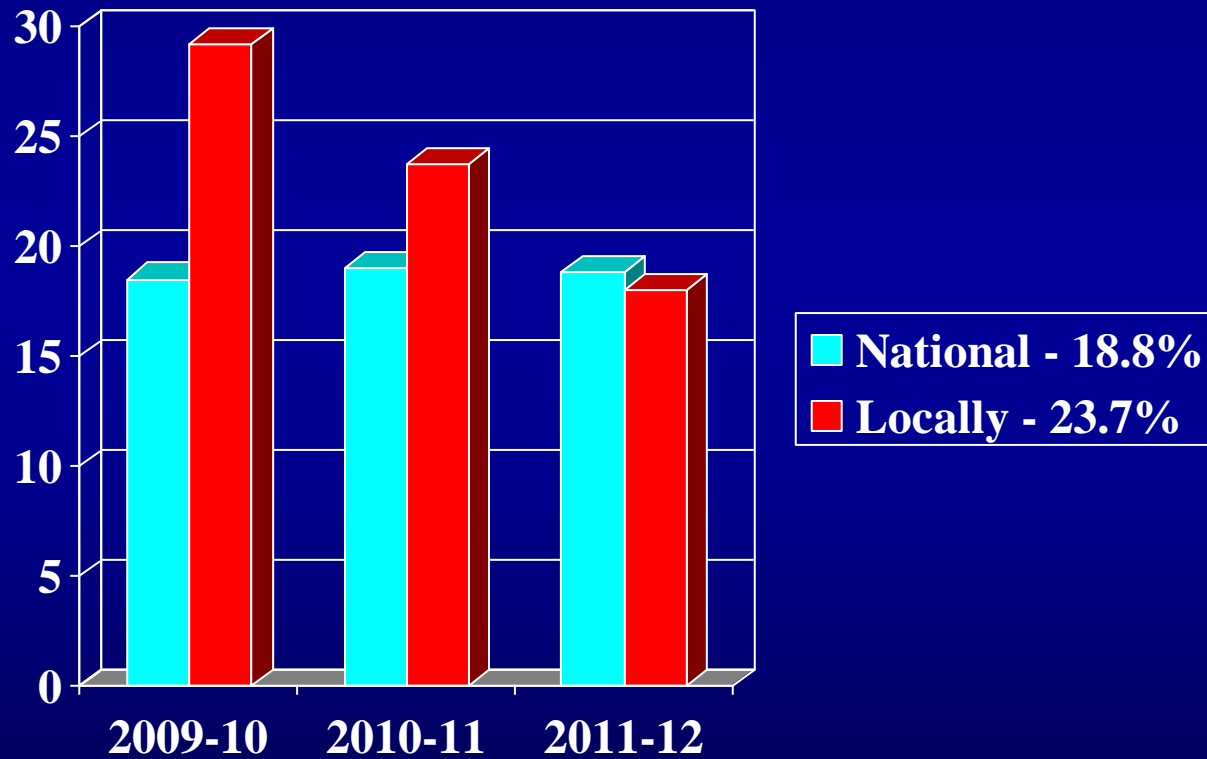
Nationally:

- 46% of all arson arrests in the U.S. are children under 18
- Juveniles account for 40% of the arson arrests

Locally:

- Last year 33% of our Arson case clearance rate was linked to incendiary fires involving persons under 18
- 30% of the children referred to our program are between the ages of 13-16

ARSON FIRE CASE CLEARANCE RATE



TYPES OF FIRESETTERS

Curiosity / Experimental

- Ages 2 to 10

Troubled / Crisis

- Typically boys of all ages
- Most likely will continue to set fires until needs are met or identified
- Also known as “Cry for Help” firesetters

TYPES OF FIRESETTERS CONT'D

Delinquent/Criminal

- Teens with a firesetting history
- Targets are typically schools, open fields, dumpsters, or abandoned buildings

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH FIRESETTER BEHAVIOR

- Firesetting behavior is often a symptom of an underlying problem



REASONS BEHIND FIRESETTER BEHAVIOR

- **Unsupervised**
- **Experimentation**
- **Vandalism**
- **Malicious acts**
- **Express emotions**
- **Gang initiations**
- **Thrill seekers and dares**



J.F.I.P. IN ACTION

- Individual intervention sessions for juvenile fire-setters and their families
- Access to additional resources
- Offers group education and intervention



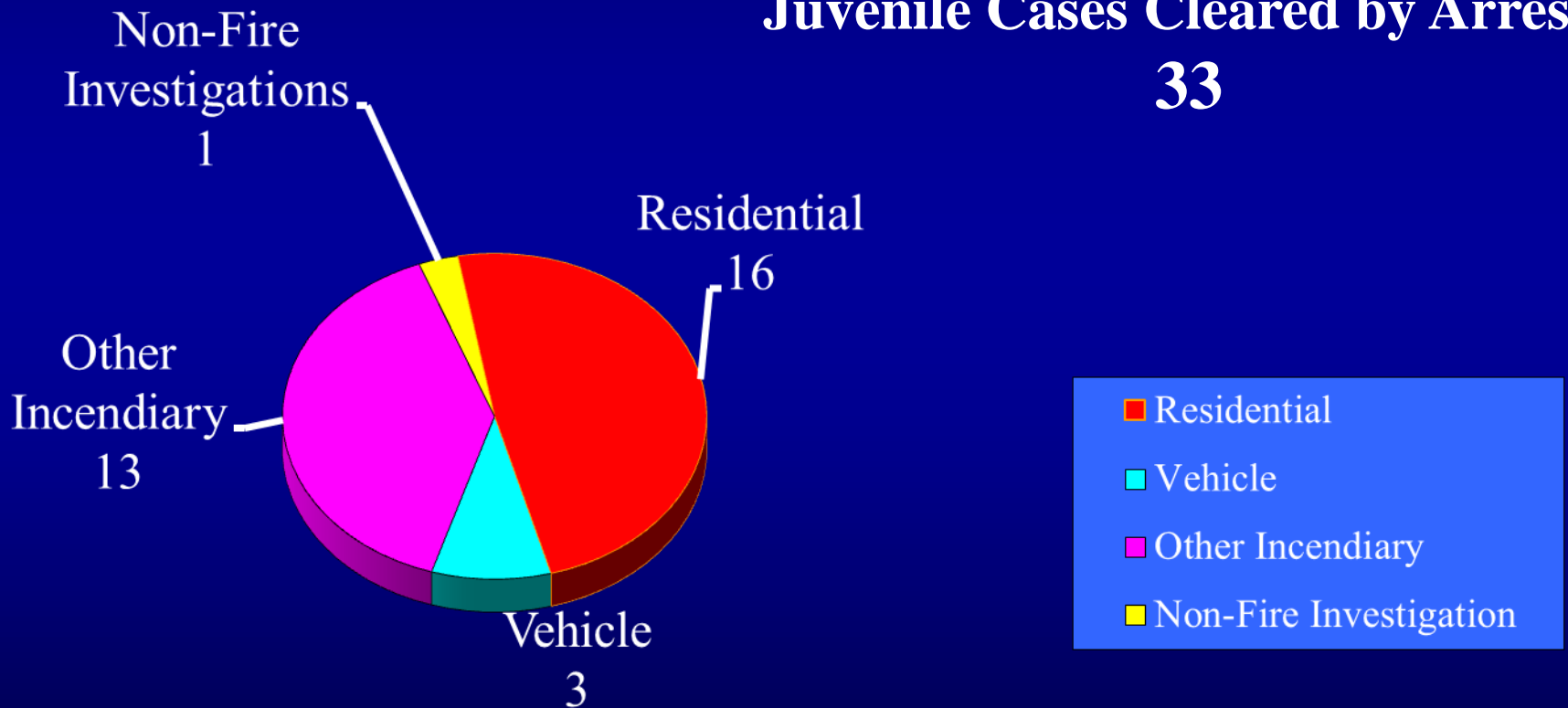
NUMBER OF JUVENILES COUNSELED PER FISCAL YEAR

Fiscal Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Number Counseled	54	49	58

***0% Recidivism**

JUVENILE CASES CLEARED BY ARREST (FY 2011-2012)

Juvenile Cases Cleared by Arrest
33



NETWORK AND RESOURCES

- ADAPT Services
- Big Brothers & Big Sisters
- Child & Family Guidance Centers
- City of Dallas – Recreation Centers & Libraries
- Community Partners of Dallas
- CONTACT Crisis Line
- Dallas County Juvenile Probation
- DISD
- Girls Inc.
- Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialists Assoc.
- Metro Care Services



QUESTIONS?