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The Juvenile Firesetter: Selected References



Revised October 1987

NYS DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL



PSYCHOLOGY OF FIRESETTING

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JUVENILE FIRESETTING IN GENERAL

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(The author, an investigator with the Los Angeles Fire Dept., briefly outlines techniques for investigation, interviewing and counseling.)
147. Juvenile Crime Prevention Curriculum: an Awareness Program for 8th/9th Grades. St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Co./St. Paul School District #625, St. Paul, MN, 1981. (Approx. 200p.)
(Includes a section on arson and arson prevention, learning activities, presentations, resources, etc.)
148. "Juvenile Crime Prevention Focuses on Arson in St. Paul Effort." Fire Control Digest, 8:7, February 1982.
(On development of program outlined in item #104 of this list.)
149. "The Juvenile Fire-Setter," by William C. Rohan, Fire & Arson Investigator, October 1956, 2p.
(Discusses aspects of juvenile firesetting including motives, interrogation and disposition of offenders.)
150. "Juvenile Fire Setters," by Samuel S. Cobb, Fire & Arson Investigator, January-March 1963, 2p.
(The focus of this article is on malicious firesetting, methods used in setting fires, and pyromania in juveniles.)
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153. Juvenile Firesetter Handbook: Dealing With Children Ages 7 - 14. US Fire Administration, Washington, DC 1984. (190p.)
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(On statistics for Lancaster Co., PA.)
155. "Juvenile Firesetting: Normal Curiosity or Criminal Behavior?" by Jennifer Obst, Minnesota Fire Chief, 21:25+, #5, May-June 1985.
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(The author, a special agent with the National Board of Fire Underwriters, discusses firesetting and its relationship to delinquency.)

JUVENILE FIRESETTING IN GENERAL, continued

157. Kids Playing With Fire: the Clarke Family Tragedy, Film Communicators, N. Hollywood, CA.
(23-minute color film or videotape on the true story of two young boys who accidentally set the family home on fire.)
158. "Little Hands, Big Fires," Navy Lifeline, 13:26, #2, March-April 1984.
159. "A Modern Look at the Juvenile Firesetter," by Michael R. Wolford, Fire & Arson Investigator, July-September 1972, 1p.
(Sociological appraisal of firesetting, with a discussion of the role of youth gangs.)
160. "New York FAIR Plan Stimulates Awareness of Juvenile Firesetting Problem," Target Arson: Update, 8:5+, #1, May 1987.
161. "Playing With Fire: a Prelude to Tragedy?" by Joseph F. Benyo, Rekindle, 14:12-13, #7, July 1985.
(On a program aired by NBC starring Gary Coleman, and complaints about manner in which interviews and follow-up information were deleted from the end of the program.)
162. A Profile of the Juvenile Arsonist, by Scott R. Coplan, Center for Law and Justice, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 1979. (Approx. 30p.)
(Identifies factors for classification of juvenile arsonists in the criminal justice/corrections system.)
163. "Questioning the Juvenile Fire Setter: Interviewing Techniques for Children," by Dian Williams, International Fire Chief, 50:22-24, #11, November 1984.
164. "Shedding Some Light on Why Kids Set Fires/Trying to Put Out the Fires," by Kate Phillips, Rochester Times-Union, June 9, 1985, p.4-6.
165. "Recognizing the Juvenile Fire Setter," by Samuel S. Cobb, Fire & Arson Investigator, July-Sept. 1972, 2p.
(Typical methods and behavior of juvenile firesetters.)
166. "Return to Detroit: City's Offensive Helps Curb Arsonist' Tricks," by Harvey Eisner, Firehouse, 11:43-46, #2, February 1986.
(On measures taken to prevent another rash of "Devil's Night" fires on Halloween. A 40% reduction was achieved.)
167. Rhode Island Juvenile Firesetters Seminar: October 16, 1985, by Rhode Island Fire Marshal's Office/R.I. FAIR Plan, 1985. (Approx. 125p.)
168. Social Interaction in Families of Firesetting Children, by R.G. Vreeland and M.B. Waller, University of N. Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1980.
(Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Assn. in Montreal, 1980.)

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(Nationwide workshops and pilot programs to train professionals in interviewing, counseling, educating and referring firesetters.)
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LOSS PREVENTION/SECURITY

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(Prevention of arson in schools.)
174. "Angry Eastchester Students Offer Help to Capture the High School 'Arsonists'." The Firefighters' Voice (White Plains edition, April 1982, p.3+26.
(Students volunteer their time to help clean up school, patrol it, and catch arsonists. The article does not mention whether juveniles are under suspicion for the fire.)
175. "Arson: How to Defend Against the Most Destructive School Crime," School Security, 1:1-8, #4, Dec. 1976.
(Guidelines for guarding against arson and minimizing fire damages. Includes statistics and two case studies.)
176. "Arson in Schools," John Gardner, Security Gazette, #2-75, 1975, p.56
(Brief overview with statistics.)
177. "Detroit Fights Theft and Arson," by John D.L'Hote, American School and University, 42:19-21, July 1970.
(Use of student involvement to combat crime.)
178. "Fires and Vandals: How to Make Them Both Unwelcome in Your Schools," E.E. Juillerat, American School Board Journal, 159:23-26, January 1972.
(Eight ways to prevent or limit the spread of incendiary fires are outlined.)
179. Losses Due to Vandalism, Arson, and Theft in Public School Systems, 1972-1973. Arlington, VA, Educational Research Service, Inc., 1974. (20p.)
(Results of a survey, with list of countermeasures being undertaken by the schools. Statistics are broken down by size of school.)

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180. "Million Dollar School Arson," by Harry W. Wilson, Security World, 12:62-63, March 1975.
(On an arson fire at the Belleview, WA, high school learning center, and plans to install alarms in other schools.)
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182. "School Fires: Part of Our Overall Crime Problem," by M. Strom, Security World, 11:20-23, March 1974.
(A statistical analysis of school fires and losses in terms of dollars and inconvenience. Also included are recommendations on protective equipment and cases of school fires from the Washington, DC area.)
183. "Soquel Fire Department Burns Away Nuisance," by Bill French, Western Fire Journal, 34:18-24, October 1982.
(On Soquel, CA, fire department's planned burning of wildland around schools that had been repeatedly set on fire by high school students.)
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(19p.)
(Brief descriptions of school fires, not all of which were incendiary in origin. Included are summaries of 155 fires from 1971-72, and a list of large loss of life fires since 1900.)
185. "Vandals, Arsonist, Bombs, Dogs," by H.H. Murphy, 1973, 5p.
(This paper was presented at the American Association of School Administrator's 1973 Convention. It details security and public relations measures taken by the Toledo public schools to minimize damages resulting from student unrest.)

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3. FBI Academy
Behavioral Science Unit
Quantico, VA 22135

5. Report number GCR-80-194
Fire Research Information Services
National Bureau of Standards
Bldg. 224, Rm. A252
Gaithersburg, MD 20899

National Technical Information Service (NTIS)
5285 Port Royal Rd.
Springfield, VA 22161
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6. NCJ #538889 for free microfiche or document loan
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National Criminal Justice Reference Service
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(301)251-5500 for general information; lending through interlibrary loan
system only)

7. NBS report #GCR-79-157
(same address for NBS or NTIS as in #5)

13. Fall River Firefighters' Memorial Museum
P.O. Box 2888
Fall River, MA 02722

25. Order dissertations by number. Rates are available by calling University
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fiche to \$37.00 and \$43.00 for softcover paper and hardcover paper, respectively.
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28. Resources in Education (RIE) January 1980, ED#175199
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29. Copies may be available from the University. Write for further information.
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37. Resources in Education, ED# 196524
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62. For sale for \$21.95 (hardcover) from
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70. NCJ #54899
(same address as #6)

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76. Office of the Fire Chief
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Public Safety Building
Civic Center Plaza
Rochester, NY 14614
82. (same address as #76)
83. (same address as #76)
94. Fresno Fire Prevention Bureau
450 M St.
Fresno, CA 93721-3083
(209)488-1542
98. Fire Division
City of Upper Arlington
3600 Tremont Rd.
Upper Arlington, OH 43221
102. New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control
162 Washington Ave.
Albany, NY 12231
(518)474-6746

120. (same address as #98)
123. Arson Control Assistance Program
Department of Law Enforcement
602 Armory Building
Springfield, IL 62706
126. Rental (80 per week) or sale (\$310 for film, \$280 for video) from:
Film Communicators
11136 Weddington St.
North Hollywood, CA 91601
(800) 423-2400
127. For sale for \$16.95 from:
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233 Spring Street
New York, NY 10013
129. NCJ #54430 for document loan or free micro-fiche
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137. NTIS #PB 82-137878
(same address as #5)
140. (Same address as #126) Rental (\$50) and sale (\$175 for film; \$155 for video)
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US Fire Administration
Federal Emergency Management Agency
P.O. Box 8181
Washington, DC 20024

143. Center for Law & Justice
University of Washington, JD-45
Seattle, WA 98195

147. St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Co.
385 Washington Street
St. Paul, MN 55102

152. Aetna Life & Casualty Co.
Arson/Fraud Unit
151 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, CT 06156

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(same address as #141)

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167. State Fire Marshal's Office
Division of Fire Safety
12 Humbert Street
North Providence, RI 02911

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