PART 3:
HOW THE INTERVIEW PROCESS WORKS
Timeline of a prevention event:

1. A referral contacts your department
2. You contact the family and set up a visit
3. First visit with the family and youth
4. Evaluation
5. Follow up visit
6. Referral
7. Data collection / upload
8. Evaluate your process, make any necessary changes
INTRODUCTION (cont’d)

Flow Chart for Youth Firesetting Intervention Services

Identification

1. Fire Service
2. Law Enforcement
3. Social Services
4. Medical Community
5. Mental Health
6. Juvenile Justice
7. Schools
8. Parents
9. Others

Intake

Youth Firesetting Intervention Program

Intervention Services

A. Fire Service
- Educational Intervention
- Formal Interview/Screening Service
- Referral To Other Target Agencies

B. Juvenile Justice
- Adjudication
- Formal Interview/Screening Services
- Referral To Other Target Agencies

C. Mental Health
- Formal Interview/Screening Services
- Behavioral Diagnosis/Evaluation
- Link To More Comprehensive Services

D. Social Services
- Alternative Placement
- Link To More Comprehensive Services
- Family Assistance/Support
Many intervention specialists often view a case involving youth with a disability or disorder as being too complex or above their level of ability.

While firefighters are not mental health clinicians, they are respected professionals who can provide (or help facilitate) effective intervention services.
GOALS OF THE INTERVIEW:

- Information included on the screening forms should include:
  - Information about the firesetting incident and history of previously set fires.
  - Information about the youth.
  - Social information.
  - Information about the family.
ARRANGING THE SCREENING

- Convenient to family (within reason).
- Inform parents of length of interview.
- Attempt to relieve the apprehension of parents by exhibiting an empathetic demeanor and assuring that a secure and professional process will be followed.
• Explain why the YFPI program exists.
• Describe how the screening process works.
• Explain how intervention strategies are chosen.
• Explain participation required of youth/parent.
• Describe why a multidisciplinary approach is used.
ARRANGING THE SCREENING (cont’d)

- Location:
  - Determined by youth firesetting program.
  - Consider safety issues.
  - Have a partner for in-home visit.
  - Consider tandem approach (male/female).
  - Remind family of appointment.
INTERVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Low risk of another fire incident:

- Household fire safety check
- Youth fire homework
- Firehouse visit
- Presentation at school/church/community center
- Follow up visits/check in
- Email/phone text with parents

High risk of another fire incident:

- Escalate to your supervisor
- Recommend therapists who specialize in fire play
- Involve law enforcement
- Involve Utah Burn Center at UofU
- Follow up visits
- Household fire safety check
REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

Reporting child abuse is mandatory in all states.

- Physical.
- Emotional.
- Sexual.
- Neglect.
FOLLOW-UP

- Often overlooked.
- Parents may not report recidivism.
- Perform follow-up four to six weeks after program completion.
Questions?