

What do we know about youths and fire in middle school?

Oregon data show that youths who set the majority of fires are between the ages of ten and fourteen. These youths attend our middle schools.

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In 2000, the Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior at the University of Oregon conducted a survey of 1,500 students in grades seven and eight.

The reasons students reported for setting "unsupervised" fires include:

- just for fun (35%)
- to destroy something (31%)
- were bored (29%)
- to see what would happen (25%)
- peer group pressure (12%)
- were angry (10%)
- wanted attention (8%)

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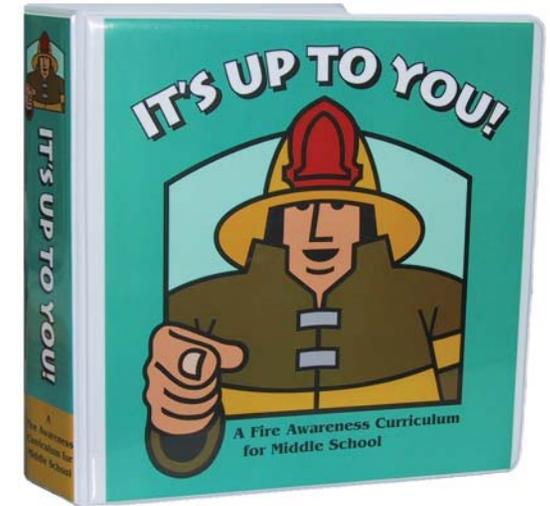
The data clearly show that if we are going to reduce the incidence of youth-set fires, we must take a proactive approach.

IT'S UP TO YOU! Scope and Sequence

UNIT TOPICS	FIRE & THE MEDIA 1	FIRE SCIENCE	FIRE PREVENTION	SURVIVAL SKILLS	RESPONSIBILITY	FIRE & THE MEDIA 2
6th GRADE	All media messages are constructed.	Introduction to the science of fire.	Knowledge of home fire sprinklers.	Earthquakes: facts and survival skills.	Responding to peer pressure.	Analysis of media.
7th GRADE	All media messages are constructed.	Fire science concepts.	Benefits of home fire sprinkler systems.	Wildland urban interface.	Impact of fire on the community.	Media message development.
8th GRADE	All media messages are constructed.	Analysis of the leading causes of home fires.	Advocate for home fire sprinklers.	Community disaster response.	Legal consequences of misusing fire.	Media message development.

IT'S UP TO YOU!

A Fire Awareness Curriculum for Middle School



Core Concepts

- Accurate knowledge about fire is essential.
- Human-caused fires can be prevented.
- Fire and life safety skills can be learned.
- Fire and life safety is a personal responsibility.



With the publication of this curriculum, the Office of State Fire Marshal is taking a proactive approach to teaching youths in middle school about the reality of fire, how the media influences their attitudes and behaviors toward fire, the physical and legal consequences of misusing fire and how to make responsible and safe decisions in fire prevention and survival. The developmental stage of middle school youths makes this an appropriate and crucial stage to teach analytical thinking and decision-making skills around fire and life safety practices.

AVAILABLE

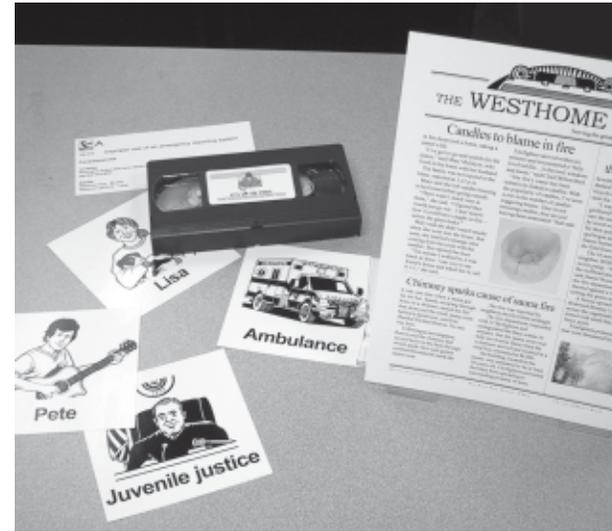
It's Up to You! is available to Oregon middle schools without charge from the Office of State Fire Marshal.

TESTED

It's Up to You! was pilot-tested in Oregon middle schools. Test sites included urban and rural schools and public and private settings.

INTEGRATED

Curriculum designers worked with the Oregon Department of Education to align the program with Oregon health standards. Many of the lessons also meet Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM) requirements.



SEQUENTIAL

It's Up to You! has six units with lessons for 6th, 7th and 8th grade. The lessons build on the skills and knowledge taught in prior lessons.

- Fire & the Media 1
- Fire Science
- Fire Prevention
- Survival Skills
- Responsibility
- Fire & the Media 2

FRESH & INTERACTIVE

Special supporting materials were developed for the lessons. They are provided with the curriculum: a video or DVD with short clips keyed to the relevant lesson; *The Westhome Siren*, the newspaper for the fictitious Oregon town of Westhome; and special "game" cards for interactive lessons.

FLEXIBLE

It's Up to You! is designed to be flexible. It can be taught "across" the units, teaching the grade-appropriate lesson from each unit, or "down" a unit, teaching all lessons in a unit in sequence.

SUPPORTED

A workshop led by an Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal training team can be scheduled for school districts adopting the curriculum.



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