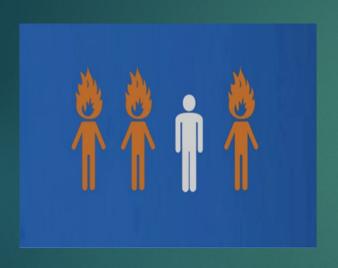
Part of the Salem-Keizer School District's Safety & Support Response Systems

Christine van Belle, Ed.S., NCSP
School Psychologist

Fire Misuse Systems Overview 2024, Christine van Belle Ed.S., MCSP, School Psychologist

First, a quick word about semantics . . .



- Fire setting behavior
- > Fire misuse
- > Fire play

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Overview of Safety & Support Response Teams (SSRT) in the Salem Keizer SD

- Student Behavioral Threat Assessment (STAT)
- Sexual Incident Response (SIRC)
- Suicide Prevention Protocol (SPP)
- Fire Misuse Assessment (FMA)
- Partner with city-wide Adult Threat Assessment (TAT)

Evolution of Salem-Keizer's Safety & Support Response System Paradigm

1990's

"Epidemic" of school shootings

1999

Oregon regulations developed that require districts to have policy and procedures

2002

Publication of the Safe School Initiative 2023

Resurrection of multiagency consortium response to youth fire misuse (JFIN)

Development of Marion County Threat Advisory Team

1998

Development of the Mid-Valley Student Threat Assessment Team

1999-2000

Development of the Mid-Valley Sexual Incident Response Committee (SIRC)

2009

"Playing with Fire" statistics: a conservative estimate, 2014-2018

30,450 structure fires, 22,350 non-structure fires

50 deaths, 570 injuries \$268 million in property damage

Source: National Fire Protection Association, May 2021

More on the scope of the problem . . .

53% of all arson arrests in the US were juveniles

Leans heavily towards males, ages 12-14 Mostly at home, between 4-8 pm

June through September Source: National Fire Protection Association, May 2021

Overview of SKSD's Fire Misuse Assessment System

- Multi-disciplinary/Multi-agency
- > Two-tiered model
 - Tier 1: Information Gathering & Safety Planning (School-site based Team)
 - > Tier 2: Outside Expertise & Resources (JFIN)
- Focuses on incident & context
- Centers on safety
- > Emphasizes collaboration on both tiers
- > Manages information and calibrates response

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

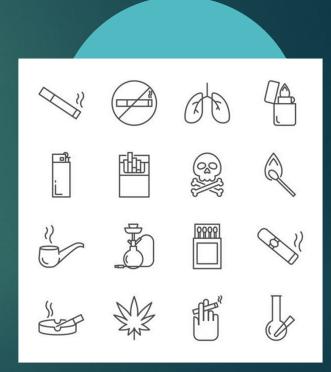
SALEM-KEIZER SCHOOL DISTRICT Fire Misuse Response System Systems Flow Chart Law Enforcement Police Report Juvenile Department Ongoing Formal or Informal Administrator information Supervision and Counselor sharing between consider need for Law **Juvenile With Fire Screening** Level I Protocol Enforcement and Fire Department after consultation School Admin. with Fire FIRE- MISUSE Level 1 Team Level 1 Team Review Marshal and Level 2 EVENT/ Administrator Law • Review information CONCERN Mid-Valley School Counselor gathered through Enforcement Report any **Juvenile Fire Setter** (See Systems Deputy Fire Marshal student, parent, teacher school fire Guide for **Intervention Network** interviews Parent, as possible regardless of recommended Staff familiar with · Reviews intervention **Consultation Team** size. criteria) response student (Site Team Administrator Possible consult with · Create safety plan participates) Do not disturb Law Enforcement evidence of the Liaison Unfounded fire until Plan / Recommendations Concerns investigated by · Home / school supervision the Fire Marshal Monitoring School Team Options: Level 2 Intervention Options Interview parents School Site Interview student & bystanders Community Resources Collect teacher questionnaires Consultation Mental Health Evaluation Disciplinary action Referral Support Complete Level 1 Fire Misuse Assessment Initiate Protective Response if Other Recommendations Refer student to Fire Department for Fire imminent danger to others Education class Consult with DHS as needed regarding parental non-responsiveness Contact: Revise intervention plan Law Enforcement Refer to Level 2, if needed Fire Marshal Level Offices & Ongoing information sharing with School Administrator Revised <u>02/07/2024</u> Safety and Risk Department SALEM•KEIZE

Reasons to Consider a Level 1 Assessment

- > Fire misuse occurs at school
- School staff is informed about concerning fire misuse, excessive fire curiosity, or explosive-device research done at school or in the community
- Fire misuse or threats of fire setting are causing disruption to school activity
- There is a history of fire misuse
- Administrator is unsure if fire misuse poses a risk to the school community

Fire Assessment Level 1: Initial Questions

- > Who, what, where, how?
- First time? History of repeated fire play?
- Peers involved?
- Poor understanding of fire?
- Access to matches & lighters? Accelerants?
- Supervision?
- Damage done? Harm to others?
- Did they call for help or try to stop the fire?
- Drugs and alcohol involved?

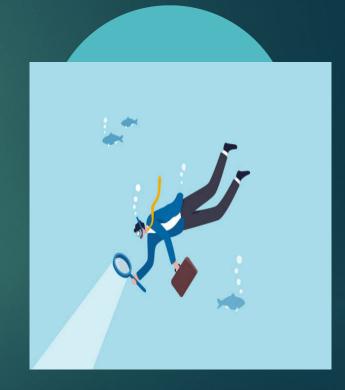


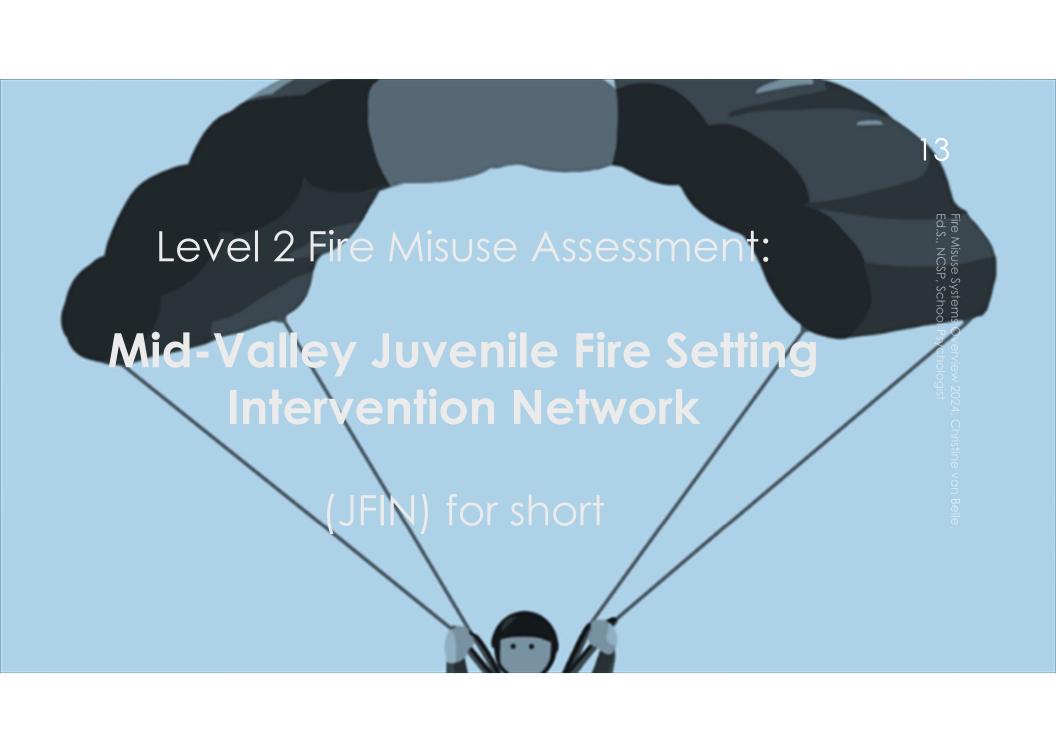
Reasons to Consider a Level 2 Assessment

- School team has concerns and aren't confident in their Level 1 investigation
- Student has a pattern of repeated fire misuse and is not responding to intervention attempts
- School team believes that fire misuse if motivated by something more complex than the simple mix of impulsivity + curiosity
- Fire misuse event was severe and/or remarkable
- School team has exhausted their building resources and needs more support
- The youth is charged with a fire related crime

Fire Assessment Level 2: Going Deeper

- Fascination or fixation with fire and fire personnel? What does their internet history/social media indicate?
- Meaning behind what was lit on fire?
- Communication about desire to set fires for burn something or a structure?
- History of suicidality, threats of violence, harm to animals, or sexual harming behavior?
- Disabling condition?
- Educational history?
- Family systems? DHS involvement?





Who are the Members of Our Team?

- Salem-Keizer School District
- Willamette Education Service District
- Salem and Keizer Fire Departments
- Marion and Polk County Juvenile Departments
- Oregon Youth Authority
- Salem Police Department
- Keizer Police Department
- Marion and Polk County Health Departments
- Polk County Fire District #1
- Marion County Fire District #1
- Oregon State Fire Marshal
- Oregon State Police





JFIN: Better Together

- Shared responsibility
- > Multi-discipline, multi-agency
- > Equity lens
- > Expeditious but methodical
- > Silo breakdown
- Keeps skill set supple
- Strategies fitting risk
- Focus on physical & psychological safety





Goal: Management Strategies, Prevention & Intervention

- Increase accountability for student of concern
- Increase supervision
- Limit access to fire setting materials
- Fire Education with fire service personnel?
- Build relationships
- Increase inhibitors
- Community resources:
 - Mental health support, mentoring, faith community, juvenile justice, etc.

Questions?

Contact Information:

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