

## WHAT DO WE DO?

### Nashua Regional Juvenile Fire Intervention Program

It is the mission of Nashua Regional Juvenile Fire Intervention Program to reduce the incidence of fire and related casualties within participating communities by establishing a continuum of care in the greater Nashua Region for youth who misuse fire and their families.

Our community-based program focuses on developing a standardized approach for early identification of youth who misuse fire, as well as building a resource network for intervention and treatment of youth with fire misuse behavior. Our coalition partners include fire service, law enforcement, criminal justice, schools, and social service agencies in servicing the needs of youth in their communities.

### The Youth Council

Since 1974, The Youth Council has been building strong families – free from abuse, addiction, and court involvement – by providing counseling, outreach and prevention to more than 4500 children, teens and families each year throughout greater Nashua.

Parents, judges, guidance counselors, police officers and youth workers rely on our creative, affordable and award-winning programs to strengthen and improve families' ability to make healthy decisions and reduce involvement with the juvenile justice system.

#### **Nashua Fire Rescue**

2 Conant Road, Nashua, NH 03062  
Phone: (603) 589-3460  
[www.nashuafire.com](http://www.nashuafire.com)

#### **The Youth Council**

112 West Pearl Street, Nashua, NH 03060  
Phone: 603-889-1090 Fax: 603-598-1703  
[www.theyouthcouncil.org](http://www.theyouthcouncil.org)

For more information contact:



**Nashua Fire Marshal**

**(603) 589-3460**

**2 Conant Road  
Nashua, NH 03062**

**[www.nashuafire.com](http://www.nashuafire.com)**

The New Hampshire Department of Health  
& Human Services through the  
*Hillsborough County Incentive Fund*  
provides support for this program

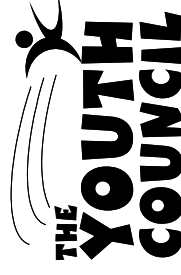


## INTERVENTION PROGRAM

A partnership between

**Nashua Regional  
Fire Departments**

and



servicing youth in Amherst,  
Hollis, Hudson, Merrimack,  
Milford & Nashua

For more information please call  
**Nashua Fire Marshal's Office**

**(603) 589-3460**

## HOW DO WE GET HELP?

If your child or a young person you know has set a fire, you **MUST** get help IMMEDIATELY to keep your family or neighborhood safe from fire! Research shows that:

- ◆ Children are curious about fire.
- ◆ Even toddlers can start a fire with a match or lighter.
- ◆ Each year children are seriously burned or die from playing with matches or lighters.
- ◆ Parents need to take their child's curiosity about fire seriously.
- ◆ Children who are curious about fire can be helped with fire education.

## WHERE DO WE START?

Complete the following checklist to protect your family and neighborhood from fire:

- Contact your local fire department for a screening to determine whether the child is appropriate for our fire education program.
- Install smoke detectors in your child's bedroom, closet, hallway and common living areas.
- Find all matches and lighters in the house and lock them up.
- If you're a smoker, keep your lighter only on your person at all times and only use child-resistant lighters.
- Establish a rule that your child is never to have lighters or matches!
- Lock up all flammable liquids such as gasoline, lighter fluid, or charcoal starter fluid for barbeques.
- Forbid children to watch shows or videos with provocative fire themes.
- Increase supervision for fire setting children. Do not let them play alone or unsupervised in other children's homes where matches or lighters may be easily available.

## WHAT'S INVOLVED?

### Overview

The Nashua Regional Fire Intervention Program serves greater Nashua youth ages 3 to 16, and is a regional collaborative involving six area communities, Emergency Services, and The Youth Council. Through a screening, educational component and fire intervention needs assessment, area children and teens are held accountable for fire misuse behavior while linking youth and families with appropriate community resources to reduce the likelihood of a repeat incident.

### Screening

When concerns arise about fire misuse or fire-setting behavior, the Nashua Fire Marshal's office is the regional contact and will screen the youth to determine the best level of services for the youth and family. Appointments are generally held on site at Nashua's Conant Road Fire Station, just off Main Dunstable Road, Exit 5, in Nashua.

Once the screening is completed, the Fire Marshal's Office will determine the next steps for the youth, which may include participation in an educational program and/or a needs assessment.

### Education Program

Two education programs are offered based on the age of the child. Young children (ages 3 to 6) generally attend a three session program, while older youth to age 16 attend a total of eight sessions.

Topics for young children include:

1. Tools versus Toys, Good & Bad fires
2. Fire Prevention & Survival Skills
3. Review and Reinforcement

Topics for older children include:

1. Introduction
2. Decision Making
3. Rules to Live By
4. Victimization
5. Communication
6. Fire Science & Responsible Fire Use
7. Fire Prevention & Fire Survival
8. Alarm Devices

Classes are typically held at the Lake Street Community Fire Station during evening hours.

### Needs Assessment

The Fire Marshal's office may choose to refer the youth for a Fire Intervention Needs Assessment conducted at The Youth Council 112 West Pearl Street in Nashua. The initial appointment will be 60–90 minutes for the parent or guardian only – the juvenile should NOT accompany the parent or guardian to this appointment.

Three additional sessions will take place with the juvenile (and the parent or guardian when appropriate). These additional sessions will be up to 50 minutes in length, and the parent or guardian must accompany juveniles to these additional appointments.

As part of the assessment, the child's teacher and/or guidance counselor will be contacted. Once the assessment is completed, written recommendations will be discussed with the parents and the youth as appropriate and will also be submitted to the Fire Marshal's office.

### Fees

Fees for the program will be determined when the screening is scheduled.