

Bergen County Juvenile Fire Prevention Program

October 21, 2011

Dear Chief,

I am writing to you because this past year we have seen less juvenile fire setter referrals to the Bergen County Juvenile Fire Prevention Program. Our goal is to promote community awareness of the juvenile fire setting problem. We know that even though referrals are low, that children are still setting fires. In the state of New Jersey, more children die by fire than from any childhood illness. Nationwide fires set by children account for about 250,000 fires per year.

I am encouraging you to share this information with all your fireman and firewoman. If a fireman encounter youth that engage in inappropriate fire play in the community or in their home, those youth would benefit from being referred to BCJFPP. If a youth has a pulled a fire alarm, but did not set a fire, that individual could also be referred to the program.

The BCJFPP:

Is a free program to juveniles between ages of 10-17.

We provide a fire setting evaluation, fire safety education and family/individual counseling at no cost to the family.

In closing, without intervention, a juvenile fire setter has an 81% probability of setting another fire. I have enclosed a referral form which can be faxed to 201-797-5025. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 201-797-2660 ext. 144.

Thank you,

Joan Walpole, MA, LAC

Program Manager