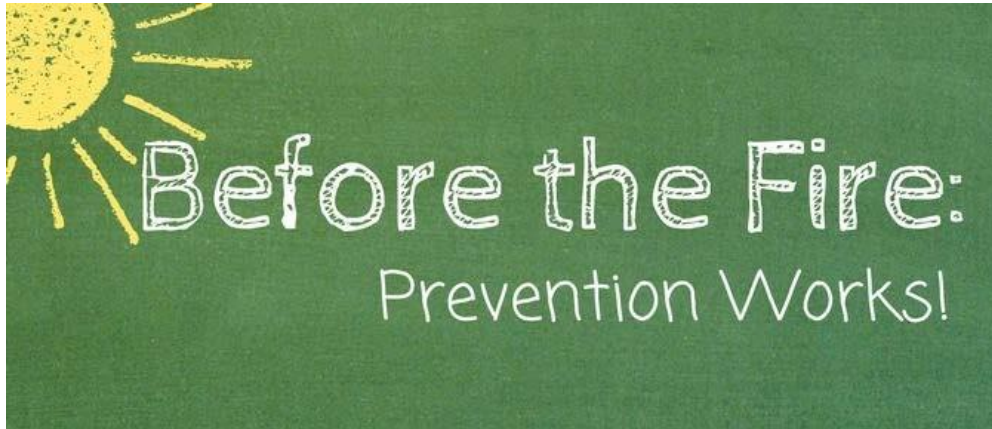


# Before the Fire: Prevention Works

Before the Fire: Prevention Works was created by educators and fire safety experts to provide effective fire safety lesson plans for teachers, preschool and day care providers, parents and caregivers to teach children about fire, fire prevention, and escaping a fire. For free downloads of grades K-8 curriculum, [click here](#).



## YFPI case study

A mom comes into the fire station looking for help with her 5- and 6-year-old boys who have been starting fires. There have been no fire department responses required...yet. Most recently, the 5-year-old thought it would be funny to wake his big brother up by starting a fire on his pillow while he was sleeping.

This is a biracial family, and the boys have different fathers. Neither father is very involved with the children. They live with their biological mother, and a father figure is in the picture with his daughter, 3 years old. A half-sibling is on the way. Neither adult smokes, but they do have a fire pit. Both of the boys have ADHD, and the younger boy also has Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD) and acts out verbally and physically when he is frustrated. They are both on medication for their disorders, but they only see a medical doctor for their medication refills, not a mental health professional. They were in counseling about six months ago, but the company no longer provides local services. The mom stated that the firesetting behaviors seemed to start once they no longer were getting mental health services, plus a grandmother passed away about a year ago.

Using the Youth Fire Intervention Team's intake and assessment materials, the boys were both identified as high risk and in need of mental health services. The local fire marshal then contacted the SFMD's YFPI Coordinator, who contacted our mental health consultant, Jerrod Brown. A three-way conference call ensued, and a new mental health facility has been identified for the boys. The local fire marshal will be making this referral and conducting fire science education in conjunction with the mental health intervention.

Kudos to mom for identifying the problem, and kudos to the fire marshal, Chris Clark, for making a difference in this family's lives.

# Understanding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) webinar

Free webinar: Understanding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD): Promising Practices for System Involved Youth with FASD

As fire service professionals, we may come into contact with individuals suffering from FASD. This medical condition describes a range of effects that can occur in an individual prenatally exposed to alcohol. These effects are often invisible and may include mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities with lifelong implications. This session highlights available resources for this disability and offers a strong case for why those in the fire or justice/legal system need to understand the disability and how it impacts the population who appear before them as suspects, witnesses, and victims. To view the free webinar, [click here](#).

## Teaching children to prepare for emergencies

Emergencies and disasters can happen at any time and often without warning. Children make up about 25 percent of our population, so disaster planning, response and recovery efforts must take into account their unique needs.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers the free [Youth Emergency Preparedness Curriculum](#) to help educators teach kids what to do before, during and after an emergency. Created for grades 1 through 12, it incorporates age-appropriate problem-solving, teamwork, creativity, leadership and communication skills. Fire safety educators may also find some ideas to enhance their safety lessons on disaster planning, response and recovery.

Each age-specific section is divided into three lessons of inquiry-driven, project-based learning activities aligned to core subject standards. Students can check their emergency know-how with knowledge tests throughout the lessons.

