



Juvenile Firesetters Information and Warning

Educational intervention in fire and life safety is a recommended intervention for all children and teens who misuse fire. Educational intervention programs for juvenile firesetters (“JFS Programs”) are either delivered one-on-one with individual firesetters, or in groups/classes (if a community has sufficient numbers of children in a JFS Program), and are usually delivered by a member of the fire service who is trained to work with juvenile firesetters. Communities with large numbers of children referred to JFS Programs will typically have a team of trained personnel, from various agencies, assigned to such JFS Programs.

The “Juvenile Firesetters” segment on the *To Hell and Back* DVD is an effective tool to teach juvenile firesetters about some of the potentially devastating consequences of their behavior with fire, and can be used in conjunction with most JFS Programs, **provided that *To Hell and Back* is only viewed by those juvenile firesetters between the ages of 7 and 9 with a parent or guardian present, or over the age of 10, and only in the presence of a properly trained fire service representative and at least one parent or legal guardian.** It is highly recommended that you use caution in selecting *To Hell and Back* as your educational tool, realizing that firesetting behavior in children is a symptom of need (e.g., a need for fire safety information, or a need for other psychological, social, family, or physical needs and services). In addition, some children enter your JFS Program through the court system, where restitution and criminal behaviors must also be addressed with punitive measures. Children in need of referral for counseling, regardless of the level of services required, may not be ready to process the information contained in *To Hell and Back*. For those juvenile firesetters in your JFS Program who are at either definite or extreme risk for future firesetting, as identified through your risk assessment process, it’s highly recommended that you consult a mental health practitioner prior to using *To Hell and Back* as an educational tool with any such juvenile firesetters.



JFS Program Delivery Guidelines

Set out below are procedures and guidelines for your review, and to better assist you in properly administering and presenting *To Hell and Back* to any juvenile firesetters and their family members. Please review these procedures and guidelines thoroughly before presenting *To Hell and Back* as part of your JFS Program.

1. Review *To Hell and Back* with the mental health professional(s) working with you in your JFS Program in its entirety. With your local multi-agency team (fire department, police department, mental health agency/practitioner, educators) establish and document guidelines when and when not to use *To Hell and Back* with your juvenile firesetters and their family members.

Remember, To Hell and Back may only be viewed by those juvenile firesetters between the ages of 7 and 9 with a parent or guardian present, or over the age of 10, and only in the presence of a properly trained fire service representative and at least one consenting parent or legal guardian. In addition, To Hell and Back may not be viewed by any juvenile firesetters or their parent/guardian, unless each of the participating juvenile firesetters and their parent/guardian have each signed the Participation Waiver, Release of Liability and Agreement to Indemnify Release Form (the "Release Form") prior to its exhibition.

Please be sure to download and print an adequate number of copies of the Release Form prior to each presentation of *To Hell and Back*.

2. Prior to the start of the presentation of *To Hell and Back*, please be sure to complete each Release Form as follows:
 - Print the name of your agency or company in the header paragraph, and again in paragraph III on page 1 of each copy of each Release Form;
 - Print the name of your agency or company in paragraphs I and V on page 2 of each copy of each Release Form;
 - Print the name of the actual participating juvenile firesetter in paragraph I on page 2 of each copy of each Release Form; and
 - Have an authorized representative of your agency or company initial each handwritten change in the Release Form, and sign pages 1 and 2 of each copy of the Release Form.
3. Review the pre- and post- test and evaluation forms, and information checklists used with the presentation of *To Hell and Back*. Please be sure to download and print an adequate number of copies of these test and evaluation forms, and information checklists prior to the exhibition of *To Hell and Back*.
4. Review and understand the introduction in *To Hell and Back* in its entirety.
5. As with any public education presentation, check audio-visual equipment ahead of time to be sure that everything is in working order for the presentation.



JFS Presentation

1. Know your audience! Ask the group if anyone present or someone they know, has personally experienced a serious burn injury, or house fire, allowing the opportunity for those individuals to speak to the incident if they choose to do so. This will help you identify participants that may want to address questions following the presentation and/or require a forewarning that the JFS Program could affect them adversely.
2. Prior to the start of the presentation of *To Hell and Back*, please distribute the partially-executed and completed Release Forms to each participating parent or legal guardian and the participating juvenile firesetter for review and completion. Please provide an adequate amount of time to allow each participant to read and review the Release Form. If all is in order, and prior to the start of the presentation of *To Hell and Back*, please have:
 - the participating juvenile firesetter sign page 1 of the Release Form; and
 - the participating parent or legal guardian sign page 2 of the Release Form.
 - Please be sure to retain a copy of each of the signed Release Forms for your records.
3. Distribute the pre-test, allowing adequate time to complete the test. Collect the test.
4. Deliver the following introduction.

To Hell and Back: Community Awareness is an educational program designed to teach the reality of burn injuries to high school students, the adult population, and juvenile firesetters. This intention of this program is to show the viewer how the skin protects the body and the consequences to the body and human life when the skin is burned. You may be thinking, "Why do I need to know about burn injuries?" The answer to that question rests in the burn injury statistics.

- Every year in the United States, 1.1 million burn injuries require medical attention
- Approximately 50,000 burn injuries require hospitalization
- Approximately 20,000 are major burn injuries involving at least 25% of the total body surface
- 4,500 of these people die
- Nearly 10,000 people die from burn related infections
- At least 50% of these injuries are preventable

In the United States, new prevention messages seem to become part of public safety campaigns daily. Some stick. Some don't. One program that did stick is Mothers against Drunk Driving because it launched a real campaign that was personal and practical. Last year's decrease in the number of alcohol related crashes reveals MADD's prevention program is effective.



This program is no different. *To Hell and Back* teaches you about the reality of a burn injury; and, what will happen to your body and life if you continue behaviors that could cause burn injury. As you will hear from the Medical Director of the Fairbanks Burn Center, burn injuries are unlike any other injury. You can break your leg and you will be back to normal in a few months, with no physical indication that your leg was ever broken. Burn injuries are not like broken legs. Severe burn injuries last forever and they change your life forever.

The People's Burn Foundation, much like MADD, wants to educate you about the reality of burn injuries so you can help decrease burn injury statistics in the United States. With more than one-half of reported burn injuries classified as preventable, it is time to reverse the upward trend in burn statistics. *To Hell and Back* will empower you with the desire to include practical steps in your everyday life to prevent burn injuries.

(Insert DVD utilizing TV/DVD player and play DVD.)

5. Distribute the post-test, allowing appropriate time for participants to complete the test.
6. If time permits, The People's Burn Foundation would appreciate completed evaluations and comments from participants for further assessment and development.
7. Following the presentation, be sure to include ample time for open discussion, and lessons learned following the presentation of *To Hell and Back* to reinforce the issues.
8. Document and discuss reactions of the juvenile firesetter to *To Hell and Back* with your mental health practitioners as necessary.
9. Provide any feedback you feel relevant to the People's Burn Foundation.

It is well known that many communities do not have organized JFS Programs in their community. For that reason, the goal of the People's Burn Foundation is to develop a "model" JFS Program to share with other communities. Only your feedback will allow for this comprehensive training module.

Thank you for your participation.