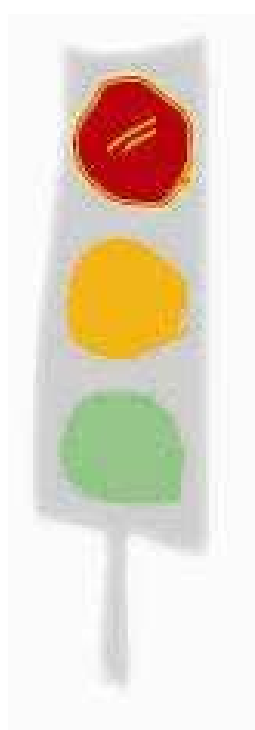


Working with Juvenile Firesetters in Finland

NoFS 2011

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PELASTUSOPISTO



TULIPYSÄKKI



With the population of 5.3 million in Finland

- over 15 000 reported fires in a year
- around 100 fire deaths in a year
- at least 2.3 mil. € property loss
- 2010 over 900 fires (in Finland estimated caused by children aged 0 – 17)



Safety first

Internal Security Programme

- **improving safety in the home**
- **improving the security of ethnic minorities**
- **increasing business security**
- **preventing major accidents and environmental disasters**
- **preventing crime and reducing violence**
- **border security**



Classification of the fire play

- curiosity
- crisis
- criminal
- psychological disturbances

(Wooden & Berkey,1984)




A Finnish study of children playing with fire

- 662 compulsory school students 8 -16 years
- grades 2,5,8
- two bigger cities: one in the North one in the South
- survey: Playing with Fire Questionnaire






Results

- **30 % of children reported they had played with fire**
 - **8-year-old girls played the least (5 %)**
 - **11-year-old boys played the most (43 %)**
 - **by the age of 15 70 % of the students had been playing with a burning candle**
 - **practically no gender differences at the 8th grade: girls and boys played equally with fire**
- 



Results

- **children play with fire a lot more than known before**
 - **children are unable to estimate the risks of the fire**
 - **children who reported having a conduct disorder or bad behaviour at school were more often fire players**
 - **also having own matches or lighters predicted fire play**
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Where do children play with fire?

- in the woods, on solid rock or at the home yard
- in own room
- somewhere else at home
- at the school yard



MAKEETA!



AUTS!



What do children burn?

- paper
- grass, leaves
- own property, toys, photos, candles, fireworks, ants, clothes, gasoline or hairspray
- one student reported to have prepared a Molotov's cocktail





The Tulipysäkki program for juvenile firesetters

- a pilot project at the local level in Southwestern Finland
- referrals with 70 juvenile fire setters and their parents
- all boys 12 -16 years





The Tulipysäkki program for juvenile firesetters

- meeting: police, fire, social services
- co-operation with the parents
- take the consequences
- discussion about the claims
- a new start







Nationwide program **Tulipysäkki**

- a network was created of all of the 22 fire districts in Finland
- contacts with the police and the social office : tailored co-operation with the authorities





Tulipysäkki now

Locally:

- fire service gets a message from the local police department, school or social services
- meeting with the family at the police station





Tulipysäkki now

Discussion:

How did you make the fire?

How did you put out the fire?

What happened?

Who else was involved?





Tulipysäkki now

- a nationwide coordinator: consulting the cases, arranges network meetings
- education for the local authorities
- a new reasearch: With or without? – areal differencies of the juvenile fire setting in Finland
- a report of the school fires in Finland

Tulipysäkki 2012?



A new design: Involvement of Tampere university :
Teacher education, fire safety in curricula if funded
by the Fire Protection Fund of the Finland





Next presentation in Sweden

- skolbränder i Finland
- på Skolan brinner MSBkonferensen i Sollentuna den 13 -14 oktober 2011



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