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A multidimensional approach to assessing and treating juvenile fire setters and bomb makers

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The psychological, environmental, and financial costs to our society caused by Juvenile Fire Setting and Bomb making (JFSB) have been consistently addressed through various government and research reports. Cases of JFSB are unique in that they involve multiple community services such as fire departments, school districts, juvenile justice systems, and mental health services. Due to the underlying psychological processes associated with JFSB behaviors, it is common for JFSBs to suffer from a mental health disorder. In addition, incidents of JFSB are highly diverse and vary across different age groups, settings, and motives. Unfortunately, many JFSB behaviors are often overlooked or unaddressed by mental health professionals, which increases the risk of recidivism and potential risk to public safety as a result. By understanding the behaviors exhibited by JFSBs, conducting comprehensive assessments and applying effective treatment strategies, mental health professionals can deliver appropriate services to meet the needs of each individual JFSB case.

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