1. **This is a program about children who intentionally set fires. How big a problem is this?**
   - Children die every year from fires they start.
   - One, small, fire can destroy your home or business and cause severe injury or loss of life.
   - The misuse of fire can be a crime – called arson.
   - By the time a child gets caught misusing fire, they may have already set many fires.

2. **Isn’t “playing” with fire a normal part of growing up?**
   - Curiosity is normal, setting fires is not.
   - Children need to learn about fire, but learning about fire on their own, is dangerous.
   - Television and movies give a false impression of fire’s power, and human’s ability to control fire.
   - Fire is not a toy.

3. **What are some of the reasons why children and teens misuse fire?**
   - Curiosity and fascination.
   - Imitating adult behavior, seen in person or from TV.
   - Trying to impress friends or seeking thrills.
   - Trying to express anger, fear or sadness.
   - Emotional situations at home, school or in relationships.
4. How does fire play a role in our culture?
   - **Holiday use**: July 4th (Independence day) or New Year
   - **Faith-based use**: Christmas candles (or other religious)
   - **Ritual use**: Weddings, funerals, graveyard, incense burning (Somali), or Hoopli (Hmong) and money paper
   - **Social use**: Birthday candles, campfires, and bonfires

   - *We will not bring fire harm to our families by finding help to teach our children the proper use of fire.*

   - *Our challenge is to teach that there is no shame in sharing the mistaken use of fire. This is how we teach proper use of fire*

5. How can we teach the proper use of fire in these situations?
   - Prevent fires before they start.
     - Keep fire tools locked up
     - Childproof lighters are not foolproof (perfect)!
     - Teach children about the dangers of fire tools (lighters) and flammable products (gasoline, cooking oil, etc.)
     - Seek professionals to show children the right and wrong uses for fire (fire department is best resource)
     - Adults should always be near fire when they are being used for celebrations. This helps keep the children safe.
   - Most adults don’t have solid understanding of fire behavior, fire safety, fire extinguishing. Talk to experts at the fire department.
6. What are the signs that a child might be misusing fire?
   - Smell of fire, smoke or fuel.
   - Burn marks on floors or walls, burns on child's hands.
   - Burnt matches where adults didn’t leave them.
   - Char marks on clothing and objects.
   - Children showing an extreme interest in fire.
   - Desire to cause damage or harm to others is serious warning sign.

7. What can parents can do to help children who misuse fire?
   - Best thing to do is ask for help by calling the fire department or fire-setting interventionists.
   - In Minnesota, there is a toll free line you can call and when you do, leave a message.
   - If you speak a language other than English, ask for an interpreter and one will be made available in your language.
   - Worst thing to do is to keep it a secret. There is no shame in asking for help and you won’t bring harm to yourself for getting help.
   - [DIRECTOR CUE: 1-800-500-8897]

8. What’s involved in youth firesetting intervention?
   - Goal of fire-setting intervention is to educate the child, teen and adults so they learn to prevent future problems with fire.
   - Parents play a part in the training and intervention.
   - Some children may benefit by taking a class, and others learn better in a one-on-one situation. Both kinds of help are available.
   - Sometimes children may need mental health or family therapy.
9. **What is “arson”? What makes it a crime?**
   - If a fire was started on purpose, any damage to property or people is considered a crime called arson.
   - If someone dies in an arson fire, it’s murder.
   - In Minnesota, any fire that the fire department is called to is investigated to see if the fire was intentional/arson.
   - The penalties for arson crimes are currently geared to punish adults however, a court judge could decide what kind of help and or penalties to give children who intentionally set fires.

10. **Why do modern materials burn so much faster?**
    - Synthetic fabrics and plastic products are cheap and lightweight, but burn very fast.
    - These chemicals are also very toxic when burned. The smoke can be harmful to your health.
    - Six years ago, a fire could double in size in 30 seconds. It's now 19 seconds, and getting faster.

11. **ECHO HOSTS, IF TIME REVIEW:**
    - Best thing to do is ask for help by calling the fire department or fire-setting interventionists.
    - In Minnesota, you can call toll free 1-800-500-8897 and talk to someone in your own language about fire safety and fire setting.
    - 9 out of 10 children who get help from professionals, do not continue improper use of fire.
    - Most people don’t realize how fast fire can destroy property or harm people. Talk to experts at the fire department.

[DIRECTOR CUE: 1-800-500-8897]