



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Juvenile vandalism and violence to be topic of lecture**

Dr. Michael L. Slavkin, assistant professor of education, will present "Juvenile Firesetters, Violence, and Vandalism: A Community Problem" at 4 p.m. on Thursday, October 19, in Carter Hall, University Center, University of Southern Indiana. The public is invited to attend. Interested persons would include professional and community members interested in helping youth in need including teachers, parents, mental health professionals, probation officers, social workers, fire fighters, police officers, and doctors.

A nationally recognized expert on juvenile fire-setting and violence, Dr. Slavkin has worked with the National Association of State Fire Marshals and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to create a community intervention curriculum for at-risk juveniles. According to Slavkin, one out of five children below the age of 18 years has played with fire at least once and 80 percent of house fires are caused by children playing with fire.

According to Slavkin, Evansville residents have lost millions of dollars in the last decade due to child-set fires.

"As a community, Vanderburgh County must address the issues surrounding juvenile-set fires," said Slavkin. "Without the support of parents, teachers, police, fire professionals, and social services, these children are apt to fall through the cracks and fail to get the interventions required to reduce this behavior. It is my hope that members of the Vanderburgh community come to this informative meeting, but also that this is the beginning of a long-term intra-agency relationship toward providing the guidance, support, and remediation that these children need."