

= The Fire (The Office) =

" The Fire " is the fourth episode of the second season of the American comedy television series The Office , and the show 's tenth episode overall . Written by B. J. Novak and directed by Ken Kwapis , the episode first aired in the United States on October 11 , 2005 on NBC . The episode features Amy Adams as Jim 's girlfriend , Katy .

The series depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In the episode , Michael Scott (Steve Carell) takes it upon himself to teach Ryan Howard (B.J. Novak) about business , but soon everyone is forced to evacuate the office due to a fire . While outside , Michael continues to show an interest in Ryan , causing Dwight Schrute (Rainn Wilson) to be jealous . Meanwhile , Jim Halpert (John Krasinski) organizes games to play outside .

According to B. J. Novak , the episode was " a fun one to film " . Although the cast and crew appear to be cold in the finished episode , " The Fire " was filmed in 100 @-@ degree weather ; thus , the actors " couldn 't look hot " and had to pretend to shiver . The firemen in the scene were played by actual firemen , and their costumes were designed in order to look like authentic Scranton firefighters .

= = Plot = =

Pam (Jenna Fischer) learns that Jim (John Krasinski) and Katy (Amy Adams) have started dating . Michael (Steve Carell) gives Ryan (B.J. Novak) a glowing checkpoint review . When Ryan expresses his interest in starting his own business someday , Michael takes it upon himself to teach Ryan the " ten rules of business " . The fire alarm sounds , and while Dwight (Rainn Wilson) and Angela (Angela Kinsey) both attempt to take charge of the evacuation , Michael pushes others out of the way in his escape out of the building .

The employees play games to pass the time , including " Desert Island Picks " and " Who Would You Do ? " When Ryan reveals that he is attending business school at night , Michael becomes enamored of his newfound protégé . Dwight becomes noticeably jealous of Ryan 's favor with Michael , and he is seen sulking in his car to the tune " Everybody Hurts " by R.E.M. When Michael mentions that he left his cell phone in the office , Dwight rushes back into the building to fetch it .

Michael asks Ryan to call his cell phone to help Dwight find it . The phone rings , which happens to be in Michael 's pocket . Dwight emerges , coughing , from the building and reveals that the fire was started by Ryan , who left a cheese pita in the toaster @-@ oven set to " oven " instead of " toaster " . Dwight and Michael mock Ryan and dub him " The Fire Guy " by doing a song parody of the Billy Joel song " We Didn 't Start the Fire " .

= = Production = =

" The Fire " was the fourth episode of the series directed by Ken Kwapis . Kwapis had previously directed " Pilot " , " Diversity Day " , and " Sexual Harassment " . " The Fire " was written by B. J. Novak , who also acts on the show as Ryan Howard . Novak had previously penned the episodes " Diversity Day " and " Sexual Harassment " . " The Fire " featured the second appearance of Katy , portrayed by Amy Adams . Adams thoroughly enjoyed her work on the show . In an interview with Advocate.com , she said , " [The Office] was the best work experience . I loved that show and that cast so much . I don 't know if they believe me , but every time I see them I 'm like , ' Oh my gosh , I 'd do anything to come back . ' "

Novak described the episode as " a fun one to film " . The episode was filmed in 100 @-@ degree weather , but according to cast member B. J. Novak , they " couldn 't look hot " . The area outside the building was shot in Van Nuys , California in what Novak called a " bad area " : he later noted that they " had to pretend we weren 't scared , even though every car that is left next to our set overnight is stripped to the bone for parts . " Greg Daniels noted that during the filming of " The Fire " , the cast and crew kept being interrupted by the sound of helicopters . The firemen in the scene

were played by actual firemen . The crew of The Office had someone in Scranton take photographs of local firefighters ' uniforms , so the costumes would be accurate . However , in an interview with the Pittsburgh Post @-@ Gazette , Scranton firefighter Art Franklin pointed out that the uniform is actually tan , instead of the black ones seen on the show .

= = Cultural references = =

When lecturing Ryan , Michael compares himself to Yoda and Mr. Miyagi . When he later attempts to do a Yoda voice , Ryan misinterprets it as an impression of Fozzie Bear . When Dwight is dejectedly listening to music in his car , he is playing " Everybody Hurts " by R.E.M. Dwight and Michael 's " Ryan Started the Fire " is an thinly veiled song parody of the Billy Joel song " We Didn 't Start the Fire " .

During the game of desert island , many of the employees reference specific films and books . Angela says she would take The Bible , A Purpose Driven Life , and The Da Vinci Code , but only to burn the latter . Dwight notes that he would take the Physicians ' Desk Reference , but hollow it out and fill it with supplies ; he also states we would bring Harry Potter and the Sorcerer 's Stone or Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban in case he got bored . Meredith later reveals that she would bring Legends Of The Fall , My Big Fat Greek Wedding , Legally Blonde , The Bridges of Madison County , and " just the pottery scene " from Ghost to watch . Pam picks Fargo , Edward Scissorhands , Dazed And Confused , The Breakfast Club , and The Princess Bride . After asking what Dwight would bring , he says The Crow .

= = Reception = =

" The Fire " originally aired on NBC in the United States on October 11 , 2005 . The episode was viewed by 7 @.@ 6 million viewers and received a 3 @.@ 7 rating / 9 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 3 @.@ 7 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 9 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . The episode won its timeslot . An encore presentation of the episode , on June 6 , 2006 , received 1 @.@ 9 rating / 6 % share and was viewed by over 4 @.@ 6 million viewers .

" The Fire " received mostly positive reviews from critics . TV Squad 's Michael Sciannamea wrote that " The Fire " was " another good episode . " Sciannamea went on to write that " show has definitely improved and it 's nice to see the other characters emerge " . " Miss Alli " of Television Without Pity graded the episode with a " B + " . Dwight 's reinterpretation of " We Didn 't Start the Fire " inspired fans of the office to make their own song parodies . One version , aptly titled " Ryan Started the Fire " , lists several events from The Office , much like the original . After posting the song , Margaret Lyons from Entertainment Weekly wrote , " Yay for the Internet ! " .

Erik Adams of The A.V. Club awarded the episode an " A ? " , noting that " ' The Fire ' is not the second season ? s funniest half @-@ hour , but I love it for its simplicity . " Writing that the episode bore similarities to a bottle episode , he enjoyed the way that the conversations among the employees allowed the audience to more fully understand all of the individual characters better . Adams also praised the interaction between Carell and Novak , as well as the performance of Wilson , which he called " unsettling " .