

Arson Prevention Protecting Your Home or Business

Fire Prevention

- Clear your property of combustible fuel sources such as yard trimmings, newspapers, leftover paint cans and other materials
- Store all flammables, paint, gasoline, mowers, etc. outside in a locked storage building
- Install and maintain a U.L.C. approved smoke alarm outside of your sleeping area
- Develop and practice a fire escape plan with your family
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach and out of sight of young children

Arson Facts:

- Arson is the leading cause of structure fires
- 1 out of every 3 structure fires is caused by arson
- 1 out of every 4 residential fires is caused by arson
- 51% of all arson related fires occur

after midnight and before 8:00am

Improve General Security

- Secure all doors, windows, skylights and especially any entrances on alleys
- Illuminate the exterior of your building and all entrances.
- Ensure that all sides of the building are covered. Motion activated lighting should be placed near the entrances.
- Don't advertise that the building is empty. Interior lights on timers give the illusion that the building is occupied.
- Trim or remove shrubbery and other landscaping that obstruct the view of the building from the street. Make sure that nothing blocks the view of the building.
- During the growing season, bushes and trees may have to be trimmed frequently.
- Consider fencing the property. Public buildings generally provide an easily accessible entrance, but it is not necessary that the back and sides also provide easy access. Privacy fences give an arsonist

privacy. Chain link fences are a better choice.

- Be watchful of strangers and immediately report suspicious actions near homes, schools, vacant buildings, businesses and other structures.
- Ask your neighbor to help keep watch over your business or property while you are away

Remember...

It is very difficult to catch an arsonist.

Report any information you have that would help in the investigation of arson- suspected fires.

Protect property you own or occupy from would – be arsonists.

Support efforts to investigate, apprehend, and prosecute arsonists.

Vacant Buildings

The Fire Code requires that all vacant buildings be secured against trespass

As an owner, it is your responsibility to ensure that the building remains secured in a manner which prevents unauthorized entry.

All accessible window and door openings are to be secured with a material equivalent to at least 1/2" (12mm) plywood installed in such a manner that it can only be removed with the use of wrecking tools

Arson Prevention

- Secure all windows and doors to prevent unauthorized access into the building.
- Install a burglar alarm system to detect any intruders.

- Remove any combustible materials (wood, cardboard, old shelving) stored around the property that could be used to start a fire.
- Cut back brush and shrubs around buildings that would be used as hiding spots.
- Cover and padlock garbage bins

located outside the building to prevent garbage bin fires.

- Move garbage bins at least 25 ft. away from the building to prevent a fire in the bin from spreading to the building.
- Install motion lights around the building to scare away loiterers.

Tips:

- Install smoke and/or heat detectors throughout the building. Electric units with battery back up are the most reliable.
- Test fire detection system (smoke and heat detectors) annually.
- Have fire detection system connected to a monitoring station to ensure rapid response when building is unoccupied.

- Install a high-power strobe light outside the building that is activated by the alarm systems. This flashing light can be seen from a long distance and can help direct help to the location.

Extinguishing Tips:

- Fire extinguishers are affordable.

Keep a good supply in the building and check them monthly to ensure that they are operational. Have them serviced annually by a qualified contractor.

- Make sure that all employees and volunteers know how to break the seal and use the fire extinguishers.
- Have automatic extinguishing systems over the cooking equipment checked and serviced every six months to ensure that they are operational when needed.