

# LOSS PREVENTION

## Arson Prevention

Business owners and employees can reduce the chances of arson striking their company. Everyone should be made aware that arson is a very serious problem, and its effects can be devastating for both the owner and the employees. Businesses can reduce the threat of arson by practicing the following suggestions:

### Make Your Property Less Inviting To Arsonists

- Keep the property well lit at night.
- Trim shrubs and trees to eliminate potential hiding places.
- Paint the building white or use light coloured bricks so that intruders are more visible during the nighttime.
- Secure all external ladders and stairways so intruders do not have access to upper floors and roofs.
- Make your property as burglar-proof as possible. Use good deadbolt locks on all doors and secure all windows. Install a monitored burglar and fire alarm system. Do a perimeter check of the building at closing to ensure it is secure.
- Erase graffiti and repair any minor vandalism as soon as possible. The more run-down your premises appear, the greater its chance of being attacked by vandals or arsonists.

### Keep Combustibles Out Of Sight

- Dispose of all garbage and refuse properly and get it off-site as soon as possible.
- Store combustible materials, such as garbage bins, wood pallets, and empty cardboard cartons away from all buildings.
- Store chemicals and other flammable liquids in their proper place, and restrict access to them by locking them up in a fire-resistant cabinet when not in use.
- Familiarize yourself with fire hazards inherent in common combustibles that your business may use (for example: plastic and paper packaging) or business processes such as cooking and deep frying.

### Practice Fire Safety

- Install smoke alarms as well as automatic and tamper-proof sprinklers and have them inspected and tested by a qualified contractor annually.
- Develop a proper fire safety plan and ensure designated people are aware of their responsibilities for fire safety.
- Educate employees about arson prevention and fire safety.
- Remember, vigilance is our best weapon against arsonists. Report anything suspicious to police immediately.

Source: [www.winnipeg.ca/police](http://www.winnipeg.ca/police)



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