

## **ARSON ALERT!**

### **24 WAYS TO STOP YOUR BUILDING BECOMING AN ARSON STATISTIC**

If you own or manage a business or if you are responsible for fire safety or security in any kind of building you should know that the most serious fire risk you face today is from **DELIBERATE FIRE**

**ARSON** is an ever present threat to shops, offices, storage premises, factories, hotels, restaurants, hospitals, schools, churches. No building is immune. Much of the arson is associated with vandalism and burglaries. You can greatly reduce the risk to your building by adopting the safeguards spelled out below.

#### **Responsibility**

1. In any enterprise the owner/manager or a named individual of senior grade must be made responsible for fire safety including protection from arson attack.
2. Think about the ease with which intruders/arsonists could break into the premises & take immediate steps to strengthen your defences.
3. If there have been any small fires on your own or neighbouring premises inform the police immediately as well as calling the fire brigade. A small fire could be a warning of something worse to come!

#### **Security**

4. One entrance is better than two especially if that one entrance is manned throughout the day.
5. Outer fences, walls & gates need to be high enough & strong enough to keep out intruders.
6. Doors & windows must be in good repair & locked when not in use.
7. Use good quality locks & padlocks.
8. Gaps under doors should be as small as possible.
9. Letter boxes should have metal containers fitted on the inside.
10. Know who holds keys; chase any that are missing.
11. Stored material of any kind should not be stacked adjacent to fences or walls where it could be set alight from outside.

## Employees

12. Warn staff of the threat from arson fires.
13. Ask them to challenge anyone who should not be on the premises & report any suspicious activities.
14. Vet new employees.
15. Keep an eye on outside contractors.

## Visitors

16. The movement of visitors within the building should be controlled.

## Fire protection

17. Ensure equipment which you have installed - extinguishers, hose reels, alarms detectors, sprinklers - is in good working order & protected against sabotage attempts.

## End of day checks

18. You or a named individual must be responsible for securing the building at the end of each working day.
19. Check that doors & windows are secure.
20. No combustible materials is left lying around.
21. No unauthorised people on premises.
22. Alarms switched on.
23. Outside illumination on.
24. Any flammable liquids locked away in secure store.

## Information published by:

**THE ARSON PREVENTION BUREAU** which has been set up by the Home Office & the Association of British Insurers to spearhead a national programme of action against arson. Further information is available from the Bureau.

Help and advice on protection of your premises is available from:-

- Fire Queen Limited
- Your insurer
- The fire safety department of your local fire brigade
- The crime prevention department of your local police force.