



Lancashire Fire  
and Rescue Service

# ARSON AND FIRE PREVENTION ADVICE

ARSON CAN BE A DIRECT THREAT  
TO YOUR BUSINESS.

making Lancashire **safer**

As part of your fire risk assessment, thought must be given to the protection of your buildings and trying to limit fire spread should a fire ignite when the building is not occupied. Approximately 46% of fires in non-residential property are attributable to arson attacks.

Building designers and managers should be aware of simple measures that can be taken to reduce the instances and impact of arson by: **reducing opportunity, deterrents** and **limiting fire spread**.

## Reduce the opportunity of an arson attack



- Waste materials within a building should be kept to a minimum.
- Accumulations of combustible materials near the building will form a danger.
- Skips should be conveniently sited for their use but ideally no less than six metres away from buildings.
- Storage of combustible waste and refuse bins need to be in a secure area away from the building. Avoid outbuildings, fences or any 'stepping stones' which offer upper level entry via windows or roof.
- Minimise the number of doors, windows and vents on the ground and first floor.
- Provide specific robust ironmongery on doors.
- Avoid canopies that offer a place for people to congregate at nights.



## Deterrents

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- Install CCTV.
- Avoid re-entrant angles that are not visible from security cameras.
- Design out concealed recesses.
- Design out concealed doors for entry or exit.
- Design out concealed duct outlets.
- Install external lighting as a deterrent where the premises are overlooked.
- Reduce or eliminate shrubbery that could conceal persons while they break into a building.

## Limit fire spread

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- Install fire sprinklers – they are very effective and can result in insurance reductions.
- Most buildings have a fire alarm, many with automatic detection. Monitoring the fire alarm provides an early warning when premises are unoccupied to alert a key holder. Robust procedures should be in place to investigate fire alarm activations to ensure false alarms to the fire service are kept at a minimum.
- Maintain good housekeeping. Waste materials in a building should be kept to a minimum.
- Close internal doors and shutters especially when premises are unoccupied.
- Repair and maintain cavity barriers and fire resisting building compartmentation after any building and services work.

**There may be other measures that could be adopted to allow businesses and the surrounding community to work together to protect the environment from fire and crime. You should contact the police and fire service for further information.**

## Contact your local business fire safety teams

Our fire safety teams are split into four geographic areas across Lancashire: Northern | Eastern | Western | Southern



The contact information for all fire safety offices are available on the 'About us' section of our [website](#).



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[www.lancsfireandrescue.org.uk](http://www.lancsfireandrescue.org.uk)