



Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service

Homeowners Checklist



Steps To Be Taken to Reduce Opportunities For Arson



Boarding up or demolition of abandoned buildings and reducing available fuel will go a long way to reduce arson and fire-setting incidents.

- # Remove the opportunity for fire setters to inflict damage to your property, endanger your lives, and lessen the quality of life in your neighborhood. Do not let un-used, or "stored" items accumulate where a fire-setter can have access.
- # Be aware of what is happening in your neighborhood and report all suspicious activity to the police.
- # If you spot where fire setting activity has occurred but was extinguished by the owner, contact the police. Many fires are started and go unreported due to actions taken by the homeowner or neighbors.
- # Keep leaves, firewood, overgrown brush and shrubbery, and other combustibles away from buildings. Do not let them accumulate against fences or walls of garages or in the back lane. Often the spaces between

garages become filled with accumulated trash which just sends and invitation to the fire-setter.

- # Arrange for bulk waste removal of discarded furniture, beds, construction or renovation materials, and large amounts of accumulated waste.
- # Keep doors, windows, and gates locked when your home is unoccupied.
- # Store all flammable liquids such as paints, gasoline, and aerosols in an approved storage location, e.g., locked cabinets, locked storage units, locked garages (preventing access fire setters), etc. Also, keep away from heat sources such as furnaces and other types of heaters.
- # Support your Neighborhood Watch programs.
- # If you suspect a child is setting fires, notify the police or the Youth Firestop Program at 986-8200. It may not be just a phase the child is going through.
- # Keep matches and lighters out of the reach and sight of young children.
- # If you know or suspect that arson was committed, contact the Winnipeg Police or report it to your neighborhood fire station.
- # Keep your home and property secure by removing fire-setting opportunities.
- # Security lighting can be very effective.
- # If you have any prevention or public education questions please contact the Winnipeg Fire Prevention Branch at 986-8200

Most Importantly ... Be Prepared for a Fire!

- # Have smoke detectors installed in your home and garage if possible. A working smoke alarm greatly reduces your chances of dying in a fire.
- # Have a well rehearsed escape plan for your home. Make and practice a home fire escape plan and set a meeting place outside. Be sure everyone in your family knows at least two escape routes from their bedrooms.
- # Keep fire extinguishers available but use them only if the fire is small enough to manage. Always call 911 to report the fire before attempting to fight it.
- # If you spot a fire in your neighborhood phone 911 immediately and attempt to warn occupants of the danger. Do not enter a structure if it is involved with fire.

Checklist and Action Plan

Reduce Fire Setting Opportunity	
Inspection Point	Property Owner Action Plan
Remove garbage accumulation	
Remove dead vegetation and clear debris away from home and garages	
Keep dumpsters at least 10 feet away from any building or building overhangs/soffits.	
Check night lighting in back lanes.	
Securely stored combustibles	
Block access to narrow spaces and remove any combustible material from exterior narrow spaces	
Fence off construction areas and limit the amount of construction debris by regular disposal.	
Prevent Unauthorized Entry	
Check all windows and doors to ensure that they close and lock securely. Keep them locked.	
Remove ladders and equipment when not in use. Prevent access to upper floors and roof areas.	
Ensure egress points to fire escapes are locked from the outside and have operating panic hardware for quick escape.	

Secure all windows, screens and vents to crawl spaces under the home, gazebos, decks, and additions. Skirt all areas which can provide unwanted access.	
Reduce Potential For Fire Damage	
Check smoke detectors and alarm systems for operability.	
Get trained in the use of a fire extinguisher.	
Report all suspicious fires, no matter how small.	
Keep fire hydrants in the neighborhood free of debris and shrubberies.	
Secure Your Property and Neighborhood	
Consider night lighting or security lighting.	
If you water your lawn and property do so between 11pm and 1am...fire-setters don't like to get wet.	
Keep window coverings closed to hide room contents.	
Become engaged with your neighborhood to prevent crime and arson...Become a champion for Neighborhood Watch	
Discourage loiterers and intruders...call the police for any suspicious activity. Be aware for graffiti, garbage, vandalism. Arson and vandalism go hand in hand.	
Consider a monitored alarm system.	

Make sure your smoke and CO detectors are working and batteries changed annually			
When away on vacation ask trustworthy neighbours to notify police if there is any suspicious activity around your property.			
External Measures			
Does lighting sufficiently illuminate all sides of the building?			
Do all exterior doors have deadbolt locks and non-removable hinge pins?			
Do you lock the doors and windows at night or when you are not on the property?			
Is shrubbery trimmed to lessen hiding spots?			
Is trash and rubbish removed and not piled up?			
Do you keep an eye out for the safety of the neighborhood?			