



The Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service



COMMUNITY ARSON PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP

REDUCING 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 neighbourhood. Do not let un-used, or "stored" items accumulate where a fire-setter can have access.
- ☐ Be aware of what is happening in your neighbourhood and report all suspicious activity to the police.
- ☐ If you spot where fire setting activity has occurred but was extinguished by the owner, it is very important to contact the police. Many fires are started and go unreported due to actions taken by the homeowner or neighbours.
- ☐ 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 is an 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 garbage cans, carts, and recycle bins secure and put out for pickup on the scheduled pickup day.
- ☐ 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 to fire setters), etc.). Also, keep away from heat sources such as furnaces and other types of heaters.
- ☐ Support your Neighbourhood Watch programs.
- ☐ If you suspect a child is setting fires, notify the police or the Youth Firestop Program by calling 311. 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 neighbourhood 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 Paramedic Service at 986-6380.

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 neighbourhood 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 store all combustible fluids.	
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 neighbourhood free of debris and shrubberies.	
Secure Your Property and Neighbourhood	
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 neighbourhood to prevent crime and arson...become a champion for Neighbourhood Watch!	
Discourage loiterers and intruders...call the police for any suspicious activity. Be aware for graffiti, garbage, and vandalism. Arson and vandalism go hand in hand.	

Consider a monitored alarm system.			
Make sure your smoke and Carbon Monoxide (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 neighbourhood?			

Arson and fire setting is a significant problem which can be combated by a community or neighbourhood by taking action at the neighbourhood level. Be a partner in preventing arson by becoming involved in Neighbourhood Watch programs, maintaining a safe property, and being watchful of suspicious activity will go a long way to reducing arsons and juvenile fire setting activity.

If you become aware of suspicious activity contact the police immediately. If you discover a fire call **911** immediately.

Waste Removal

- ☐ Large household items (e.g., furniture, mattresses) are not picked up with your regular garbage collection. Phone 311 and they will schedule a special pickup. Place your items at the curb before 7:00 am on your scheduled pickup day, but no sooner than the night before.
- ☐ Phone 311 to report abandoned household items in your neighbourhood.