

IT'S ARSON SEASON ! SCHOOLS BEWARE ...

SCHOOLS ARE FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY TO SUFFER AN ARSON ATTACK THAN COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.

All schools can take some simple, inexpensive steps to improve fire safety and reduce the likelihood of arson.

1. KEEP RUBBISH BINS AND SKIPS WELL AWAY FROM OUTSIDE WALLS

FACT

MOST SCHOOL FIRES ARE STARTED USING RUBBISH AND OTHER EASY-TO-BURN ITEMS

- We recommend you keep all fixed bins and wheelie bins at least two metres away from all buildings
- Lock and secure bins so they can't be moved up against buildings.



2. REMOVE MATERIALS THAT CAN BE USED TO SET FIRES



FACT

MOST SCHOOL FIRES LIT BY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE OPPORTUNISTIC

- Empty bins every night and weekend if school grounds are being used e.g. sports, fairs
- Remove loose combustible items from under buildings e.g. timber, desks, school crafts
- Lock recycle bin lids after hours
- Monitor school boundaries, as nearby rubbish can be easily carried to school grounds.

3. INSTALL/INCREASE SECURITY LIGHTS

FACT

THE LARGEST FIRES ARE SET AT NIGHT

- Leave external lights on or increase timer periods for sensor lights
- Cut back vegetation to make school buildings more visible and minimise places for arsonists to hide.

FACT

ADDITIONAL SECURITY LIGHTS HAVE REDUCED FIRES AND VANDALISM IN BRITISH SCHOOLS



4. INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY

- Ask neighbours and parents to keep an eye on the school and report any fires and serious vandalism to Police immediately.

5. CONFRONT ALL FIRE-SETTING BEHAVIOUR, NO MATTER HOW SMALL

FACT

SCHOOLS OFTEN HAVE A SPATE OF SMALL FIRES ON THEIR GROUNDS BEFORE A MAJOR ARSON ATTACK

- Report minor fire lighting to Police as it has been shown it is likely to continue
- Increase night security patrols during November
- Contact the Fire Service's Fire Awareness Intervention Programme (FAIP) on 0800 FIREINFO for further advice or visit our website www.fire.org.nz/FAIP. This programme is highly effective in ending fire-setting behaviour. The intervention can be directed at known fire-setters or to school groups when it is not known who is lighting the fires
- Record all information about fire-setting incidents for possible use by the Fire Service.

Order resources from our Get Firewise programme to teach children general fire safety. Go to <http://www.getfirewise.org.nz/> to order these resources, and feel free to get in touch with us through this page if you have any queries.