

RISK CONTROL CONSULTING

Arson Prevention

The following guidelines can help reduce the risk of exterior fire at your facility:

- **Employees should familiarize themselves with fire protection devices on the property.** There should be standard procedures for proper operation of firefighting equipment such as fire sprinklers and extinguishers. Guidelines also need to be established for reporting and investigating all fires. Even small fires should be treated seriously and reported to prevent larger ones from occurring.
- **Make sure fire protection devices throughout the building (such as sprinklers, extinguishers, and smoke detectors) are in working condition so that potential fire damage is minimized.** Do not allow unauthorized access to sprinkler risers and alarm units.
- **Modify the environment to help prevent fires.**
 - **Garbage cans, dumpsters,** and combustible items such as trees and shrubs should be kept at least 10 feet away from a building and its roof overhangs, windows, and doors. **Securing garbage cans in place can help prevent unauthorized movement.**
 - Remove contents of garbage cans at the end of the day.
 - When using dumpsters, make sure all discarded materials are placed inside the containers and containers are padlocked during non business hours.
 - **Cut back vegetation** and clear away any debris around campus buildings.
 - Ensure that highly flammable and combustible items (such as gasoline, paint, dead branches and leaves, etc.) are either removed from the property or stored securely so that they cannot be used as fuel for a fire.
 - **Maintain sufficient lighting** around building structures, disposal areas, entries, and exits. Check lighting with a night walk on campus. Replace any burnt out bulbs and install additional lighting in particularly dark areas.
- Routinely inspect all common areas and building structures and perform regular tests on any central or local alarm systems that will help to maintain security of the property. Windows, doors, and other points of entrance into the property should be secured. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), is a recognized standard and outlines specific inspection, maintenance and testing practices for water based and fixed (e.g. kitchen hoods and computer rooms) fire protection systems. Alliant recommends strict adherence to these practices some of which should be conducted through the use of a qualified contractor. This will help to ensure that the systems operate properly when they do respond.
- Valve supervision – All sprinkler control valves should be locked in the open position as well as electronically supervised so that if the valve is turned a trouble signal will be sent to the alarm company or enunciator panel.
- **For areas under construction,** fence the area and secure it with alarms and/or install cameras for video surveillance. Limit the amount of debris and clear it away from the building.



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This Tribal First Risk Control Consulting fact sheet is not intended to be exhaustive. The discussion and best practices suggested herein should not be regarded as legal advice. Readers should pursue legal counsel or contact their insurance providers to gain more exhaustive advice.