

- Protect property you own or occupy from would-be arsonists.
- If you have any information which may help apprehend an arsonist, call your local law enforcement agency immediately.

Vandalism prevention

Most vandalism, including graffiti, occurs in the evenings and on weekends -- so set up prevention techniques accordingly.

- Schedule custodial crews at night.
- Provide incentives for reporting vandalism and any information to catch suspects.
- Immediately report acts of vandalism to your local law enforcement agency.
- Repair the damage promptly -- the sooner you repair vandalism, the less chance there will be more vandalism.

Encourage community participation

Use newspapers, radio and television to mobilize and encourage the community to report acts of vandalism and arson



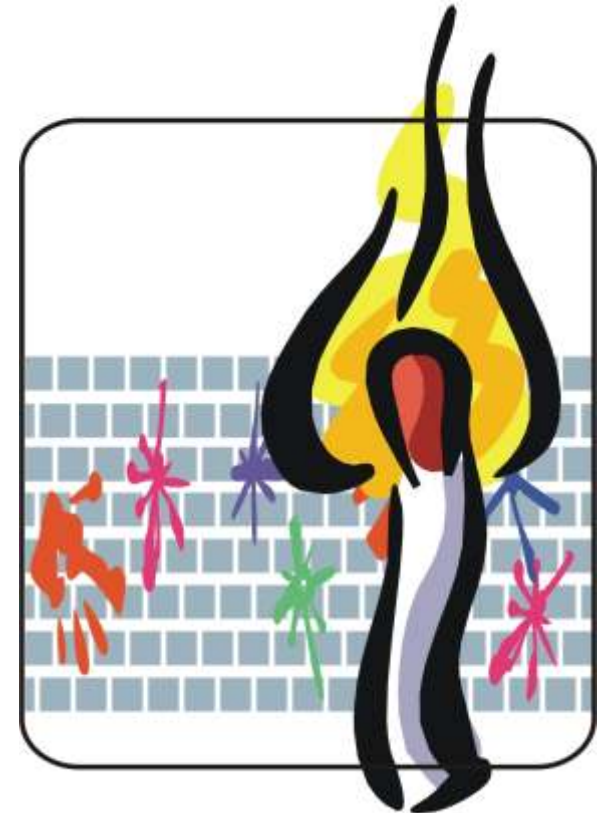
For more information on crime prevention, contact your local law enforcement agency or write:

Crime Prevention Center
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

Cypress Police Department
5275 Orange Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
(714) 229-6600



BUSINESS CRIME PREVENTION Preventing Arson and Vandalism



Arson and vandalism could have devastating financial and emotional effects on a business. Owner and employees need to be on alert. But why is it difficult to deter these crimes? Quite simply, most vandalism, including graffiti and arson attacks, occur at night and on weekends when businesses are vacant.

What can you do?

Many of the same precautions taken to discourage burglars may also discourage arsonists and vandals. By taking a few preventative steps, you can help curb those crimes against your business.

Improve general security

- Train employees to secure all doors, windows, skylights -- especially entrances on alleys.
- Install and use an alarm system and make sure all employees know how to activate the system.
- Don't allow landscaping to provide camouflage or hiding places.
- Keep your windows visible from the parking lot and street.
- Keep your property well-lighted at night.
- Train employees to be watchful of strangers and immediately report suspicious actions.
- Ask your neighbors to keep watch over your business while you are away.

Graffiti

Many youth gangs use graffiti to mark territory, send messages, and intimidate rival gangs and community residents. But graffiti is not just the work of gang members. "Taggers" are young people who are not necessarily gang affiliated but still engage in graffiti vandalism. They are seeking recognition from their peers for their daring. Only 10 percent of graffiti is thought to be gang-related; the remaining 90 percent is done by taggers. Most graffiti vandals are between the ages of 14 and 17, but some are younger. They often tote backpacks in which they carry the tools of their trade--spray paint, paint sticks and etching equipment.

Whether done by gang members or taggers, the presence of graffiti in a neighborhood can increase residents' fears about their safety and even reduce property values. Its presence can also signify to criminals that residents don't care about their neighborhood. It costs communities thousands of dollars in removal and clean-up.



Add fire prevention

- Install smoke detectors, automatic and tamper-proof sprinklers and other fire safety equipment.
- Regularly check and replace batteries on smoke detectors.
- Clear your premises of fuel sources such as landscape trimmings, newspapers, leftover paint, old rags and other trash.
- Keep storage and other infrequently visited areas secure.
- Secure flammables in a locked fire-resistant cabinet.
- Dispose of all flammable waste materials as quickly as possible. (Check with local authorities for approved methods of disposal.)
- Establish frequent and regular fire prevention patrols.
- Maintain an efficient emergency plan.
- Educate employees about arson prevention.

Remember . . .

Cooperation between citizens, business owners and government agencies is a key weapon against arson.

- Encourage your employees to report any information that would help in the investigation of arson-suspected fires.
- Support efforts to investigate, apprehend and prosecute arsonists.