

# LOSS PREVENTION

Western Financial Group Insurance Solutions

## HIP

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Group Insurance Solutions

## Arson Prevention

Many sections of the country have been plagued by arson losses causing serious fire damage and possible loss of life. We may not be able to stop arsonists but we can reduce the opportunity for them to set fires.

Garbage bins and sheds located against your building create a fire exposure that could spread to the main building. Even if your building wall is covered with metal or stucco, a fire against the wall could easily rise up the wall and involve the canopy or roof overhang. If the fire burns into the roof space it can spread quickly across the building and involve large sections of the building. Fires in the roof space are hard to fight and take a lot of water resulting in heavy smoke, fire and water damage.

There have been several very large fire losses over the past few years that were started in garbage bins, storage sheds or even recycling materials stored too close to buildings. These fires all had the same common factor – the fire extended to the combustible overhang/eave and into the roof space where it spread very quickly.

**Reduce the risk of arson fires by keeping combustibles away from your building!**

### Tips:

- Move garbage cans and bins well away from your building (at least 25ft) to prevent the fire from spreading to the building.
- Do not leave combustible storage and debris (wood, paper, pallets) lying around outside where it could be easily used to set a fire.
- Cover and padlock outside garbage bins to prevent bin fires.
- Frame storage sheds should also be moved away from your main building and out from under canopies or overhangs.
- Securely lock sheds and install motion activated flood lights over bins and sheds.
- Install vandal proof motion activated lights around the sides and rear of your building to deter loiterers that may cause damage or set fires.



October 2011