

“The stocks of Shop Ltd were destroyed in a fire. The police suspected arson because the fire seemed to have started in the rubbish bin next to the wall.”

If you have certain items on your premises – such as valuable machines, equipment, raw materials and products, as well as drugs or other intoxicating substances – they could attract thieves.

Thieves (and vandals) are more likely to strike if your premises are remote or badly lit.

Arsonists are more likely to start a fire if they see rubbish containers and combustible materials next to the walls of buildings.

Visitors to your premises could get confidential information from paperwork that’s been left lying around, and they could use it in a way that harms your business.

In some occupations, violent or threatening behaviour from customers is quite a common hazard.

Tips

To prevent unauthorised access to your premises, consider introducing:

- regular security checks
- camera surveillance
- access control equipment alarms
- reliable locking systems and proper fences.

You can also improve your security by marking items – marked property is difficult to sell even on the black market. You can get more information from the police, insurance companies, security firms and other experts in the field of security.

Insurance companies provide instructions in how to prevent arson.

Useful links

Business Link – Crime prevention for businesses

www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?topicId=1073934516&tc=000KW022237233

Home Office – Crime reduction toolkits

www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/toolkits/an00.htm