



Reducing rubbish fires for businesses

Scan to learn about your fire safety obligations, including fire safety checklists, information about fire alarms, and tips for building and designing for fire safety.



fireandemergency.nz



Every year we attend hundreds of fires that have spread from nearby rubbish skips and bins. If your business or property is targeted by arson, you might suffer significant financial loss and people's lives may be placed at risk.

You can help reduce the risk of rubbish fires damaging your property or business by following these guidelines:

Security and public access

- Install and maintain security lighting and surveillance equipment.
- Install and maintain adequate perimeter fencing so you can lock and secure the property at night.
- Limit public access to your building and yards.

Involve the community. Ask neighbours to keep an eye on your property and alert the Police if they see any suspicious behaviour.

- Be particularly alert during November, December and other holiday periods. Fireworks, combined with the dry summer season, can often contribute to arson incidents.

Storing rubbish and flammables

Some simple steps can help reduce the likelihood of your property or business being affected by arson or accidental rubbish fires:

- Locate bins away from your building.
- Lock bin lids when you're not using them.
- Arrange to have waste collected weekly to reduce rubbish on site at weekends and during holiday periods.
- Keep rubbish bins and skips well away from outside walls.
- Remove any flammable materials located outside to safe storage – where opportunists cannot access.
- Store flammable waste in metal rubbish containers with self-closing lids.
- Some flammable/hazardous products and materials need to be stored outside. Limit the pile size and keep them well away from buildings both inside and outside any boundary fences.
- Allocate safe designated smoking areas for staff or tenants.
- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the rubbish or leave discarded batteries in piles around your premises.

Lithium-ion batteries should be disposed of properly and recycled where possible, so check with your local council.

For more information on lithium-ion batteries scan this QR code:

