

Arson prevention in schools

Schools can become an easy target for arson attacks. On average across the motu there are 230 suspicious fires in schools every year.



1

Keep rubbish bins and skips well away from outside walls

- We recommend you keep all fixed bins and wheelie bins at least two metres away from all buildings.
- Lock and secure bins so they can't be moved up against buildings.
- Empty bins every night and weekend if school grounds are being used e.g. sports and fairs.
- Lock recycle bin lids after hours.

FACT Most unwanted fires in schools are started using easy to burn, accessible items such as rubbish and dry vegetation.

2

Remove materials that can be used to set fires

- Remove loose combustible items from under buildings e.g. timber and desks.
- Monitor school boundaries, as nearby rubbish can be easily carried to school grounds.

FACT Most school fires lit by young people are opportunistic.

3

Install/increase security lights

- Leave external lights on or increase timer periods for sensor lights.
- Cut back vegetation to make school buildings more visible and minimise places for arsonists to hide.

FACT The most damaging fires are set at night. Additional security lights and surveillance systems help reduce fires and vandalism in schools.

4

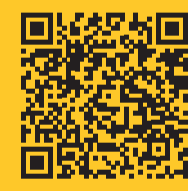
Involve the community

Ask neighbours and parents to keep an eye on the school and report any fires and serious vandalism to Police immediately.

5

Confront all fire-setting behaviour – no matter how small

- Report minor fire lighting to Police as it has been shown it is likely to continue
- Increase night security patrols
- **Ahikura** – We work with taiohi (young people) who are curious about fire through to those who have undertaken risky fire behaviour. Ahikura Whānau-Centred Fire Education is here to teach our taiohi and their whānau (family) how to be safe around fire. If you want more information about Ahikura, get in touch with us.



Phone **0800 734 2667** or scan the QR code opposite for more information.

Ahikura is free, confidential and voluntary (except for referrals from the Police or Court).

- Record all information about fire-setting incidents for possible use by Fire and Emergency.

FACT Schools often have a spate of small fires on their grounds before a major arson attack.

Order resources from our Get Firewise programme to teach year 1 and 2 children general fire safety.



Use the QR code to order these resources, or to get in touch if you have any queries.