

## ***HALLOWEEN PRANKS – DON'T GET BURNED***

---

### **DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR ARSONISTS!**

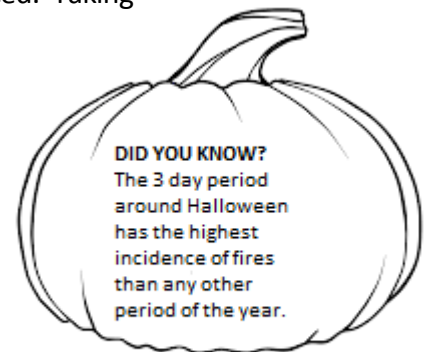
Arson has rapidly become a major problem over the last few years. Small towns as well as major cities have been affected. Halloween pranks can turn into major fire and vandalism losses.

Several businesses have suffered "Total Loss" fires due to arson in the last 24 months. In most cases, the fires were set in cardboard cartons and wooden pallets piled outside the building. The fire spread up into the overhangs and into the roof.

### **TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS PRIOR TO HALLOWEEN**

By following these guidelines, the opportunity for starting a fire is greatly reduced. Taking the time to instill these preventative measures with the help of your staff now, may prevent a devastating loss from occurring in the future. Certain steps can be taken to reduce the opportunity of arsonists targeting your buildings:

1. Remove all combustibles from outside the building. There should be NO cardboard cartons or wooden pallets stored against or near the outside of your building.
2. Avoid using straw bales for displays against the outside of the building. If used, avoid windows, air intakes, and areas below roof overhangs.
3. Refuse bins should be moved far enough away from the building so that if a fire is started in the bin, it will not spread and damage the school.
4. Close and lock the garbage bin lids at night.
5. Install exterior lighting around the building. Motion activated lights along the side and rear of the building may be helpful.
6. Remove any scrap wood, paper, etc. from outside the building that could be used to set a fire.
7. **USE CAUTION IN DECORATING CLASSROOMS AND CORRIDORS. CLASSROOMS ARE ALLOWED 20% OF WALL AREA DISPLAY AND CORRIDORS ARE ALLOWED 5% OF WALL DISPLAY.**



*Although this reference material is not intended to replace school board policies and procedures, it is intended to supplement the risk management considerations which should go into making the decisions on the most common day-to-day school activities. Visit our [website](#) for additional risk management information.*