


Fire Safety Protocol 16 	Arson
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The information provided is non-statutory guidance as provided by the Department of Health's suite of documents: Firecode - fire safety in the NHS Health Technical Memorandum, 05-03: Operational provisions *Part F: Arson prevention in NHS premises*.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/148481/HTM_05-03_Part_F_Final.pdf

The most common causes of fire within the NHS include:

- Defective electrical equipment, e.g. loose wires etc. over-heating
- Excessive heat sources near to combustible or flammable materials
- Human error
- Arson

Arson is the malicious act of intentionally starting a fire in order to cause damage or destroy something, e.g. a building.

Senior management and staff should be aware that arson has a significant, detrimental effect on the provision of effective healthcare provision and that they hold a duty of care to ensure all reasonable measures are undertaken with the on-going review of the workplace fire risk assessment and the development of those arrangements considered necessary to mitigate the likelihood of a fire occurring.

The most effective defence against **arson** is the implementation of fire preventative and precautionary measures designed to deter and inhibit persons from accessing combustible and flammable materials with the intent to start a fire.

Factors which may provide the motivation for arson

Many factors, taken individual or collectively, may provide the drive for a person or group to undertake the act of arson; the most common of these are:

- Mental instability
- Grievances
- Economic or political objectives
- Related criminal activities
- Arson by children
- Fraud

Measures to deter arsonists

Those involved in the design and construction and management of buildings should consider the protection of their buildings from arson. Properly organised physical and electronic security measures including perimeter fencing, secure doors and windows, and intruder alarm systems are essential to helping keep a potential arsonist away.

Protect the workplace from arson

- Entry doors and gates should be secured, unless in use, to prevent access by intruders.
- Ensure any damage to doors, gates and fencing is repaired promptly to deter intruders.
- Fit suitable, external doors to prevent forced entry.
- Close windows when rooms and buildings are un-occupied.
- Dispose of accumulated or abandoned rubbish via suitable, secure receptacles.
- Report anti-social behaviour, (this is often linked to arson).
- Contact the Fire Safety Adviser for support and assistance.