

## HAZARDS IN THE WORKPLACE

The Occupational Health and Safety Act and other federal and state laws provide many safeguards that protect us on the job. However, we still face many fire hazards:

- \* Arson is the No. 1 cause of fires in many types of business properties.
- \* Carelessness and ignorance are also a problem at the workplace, although the problems may be slightly different.
- \* Industrial equipment, such as manufacturing equipment and commercial kitchen equipment, present unique fire and burn hazards.
- \* Many businesses and industries rely on thig use of electrical and electronic equipment, which increases the shock hazard and possibility of electrical or appliance-related fires and burns.
- \* The high volume of combustible materials, such as in stores and offices, increase the fire hazard for workers.

### Arson

Because it is the most frequent cause of commercial fires, arson should be a primary concern from all business owners. Because fire damage affects the entire business, all employees should be concerned with preventing arson. These tips could help your business:

Work to reduce opportunities for deliberately set fires. Look for characteristics of you facility that might make it easy to set a fire. For example:

- \* Make sure all exterior areas are well lit and that all entrances are secure.
- \* Install smoke or fire detectors and sprinklers to quickly detect and control fires that might occur.
- \* Have your detector and sprinkler system inspected and maintained by licensed service technicians regularly.
- \* Be sure flammable and hazardous materials are stored properly, in locked cabinets if necessary.
- \* Because many fires are set to cover up other crimes, such as burglary, reducing the opportunities fro those crimes reduces your risk of arson as well.

Identify possible fire setters. Be aware of unhappy employees; associates or competitors. They may see setting a fire as an easy way to release frustration. If you think someone may be prone to attack your business, ask your fire or police department fro help in addressing your problem

Don't use fire insurance to solve financial problems. If you think the owner of the business or building might consider arson as the solution to financial problems, encourage him/her to seek help from other alternatives. If necessary, ask your fire or police department for help.

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