

# Columbia Police Department



- ‡ Secure all doors, windows, skylights—especially when unoccupied.
- ‡ Keep leaves, yard trimmings, newspapers, firewood, overgrown brush, shrubbery and other combustible material away from buildings.
- ‡ Don't allow landscaping to provide camouflage or hiding places. Keep the building windows visible and well-lighted.
- ‡ Store all flammable liquids such as; paints, gasoline, and mowers in an approved storage location: locked cabinets, locked storage units, and locked garages (prevent access to kids). Also, keep away from heat sources such as furnaces and any type of heaters.
- ‡ Install an alarm system.
- ‡ Be watchful of strangers and immediately report suspicious actions near homes, schools, vacant buildings, businesses or other structures.
- ‡ Ask you neighbors to keep watch over you business/home while you are away.
- ‡ If you suspect a child is setting fires, notify the proper authorities. It may not be “just a phase” they are going through. Keep matches and lighters out of reach and out of sight of young children.

## **Remember...**

*It is very difficult to catch an arsonist. Cooperation between citizens and government agencies is a key weapon against **arson**.*

*Report any information you have that would help in the investigation of **arson** suspected fires.*

# Reduce Arson

