



***Lloyd S. Berkett Insurance Agency, Inc.***

## **TEMPLE TOPICS – NEWSLETTER ARSON**

Unfortunately, arson, and its related cousin hate crimes, is a hot topic this year in the religious community.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, there were 520 such fires in 1994. In the past 18 months, there have been 100 suspicious fires. This doesn't take into account vandalism and other damage to property by third parties. Not only does arson damage property, it demoralizes a congregation, and can cause injury or death. Here are a few tips to help prevent arson and vandalism.

1. Make sure exterior lighting is sufficient and includes parking areas and landscaping. Keep interior lights on as necessary.
2. Limit access to roofs, fire escapes, and outside stairways to authorized persons only.
3. Trim shrubbery to prevent it from being used as cover or hiding.
4. Make sure all windows and doors are equipped with proper working locks, jambs, and/or deadbolts.
5. Make sure you have a "Closing Procedure" to assure all doors, windows, crawl spaces are secured to prevent unauthorized entry.
6. Institute a key control program, so you know who has access to your Temple. Change locks or keys if keys cannot be retrieved.
7. Securely lock valuable objects and combustible materials away from sight.
8. Report any suspicious activities to your local authorities.
9. Do all exterior doors have non removable hinges?

**For a more complete Temple safety report of the things you can do to protect your temple call us at 800 BERKETT. We are a leader in providing insurance services to Temples.  
We are here to help.**

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