



Fire Safety for Events

A Factsheet on Fire Safety during Special Events

The Benton County Fire District #1 urges business owners to take the following fire prevention steps during special events and holiday celebrations.

Outside

- Clean-up and remove any wastepaper, grasses, weeds, litter or other combustibles from around your building, including the alleys and recessed doorways.
- Consider installing outdoor lights that turn on when they sense motion or darkness outside the business.

Dumpsters

- Arrange for additional dumpsters or take refuse to transfer station, if overfilling is a problem.
- Place locks on commercial dumpsters if possible. Locks will reduce illegal dumping and discourage anyone from intentionally starting a fire in your dumpster.
- Locate commercial dumpsters and recycling containers at least five feet away from combustible walls and openings of combustible roof eave lines.

Staff

- Assign a responsible staff member to monitor safety throughout the night.
- Review emergency evacuation plans with all staff members.

Inside

- Make sure all decorations and displays are flameproof or fire retardant.

- Check that all fire alarms, smoke detectors, sprinklers and other fire and life safety systems are working.
- Keep decorations clear of sprinkler systems, fire extinguishers and fire alarm pull stations.
- Keep exit and exit ways open and unobstructed by furniture or decorations.
- Use heavy-duty extension cords for decorative lighting. Make sure they are not overloaded.
- Keep packaging debris and other combustible material in approved, covered containers.

Exiting

- Keep exit doors unlocked when the building is occupied. If you are concerned about people coming in through open exit doors post staff by the door to prevent unauthorized entrance.
- Ensure lit exit signs are illuminated and visible at all times when the building is occupied.
- Keep stairways and stairway landings free from storage of any type.
- Do not allow your premises to become overcrowded. Strictly enforce your occupant load limitations.

Arson

- Participate in neighborhood crime watch programs. Arrange with nearby businesses to keep an eye on each other's property.
- Call 911 to report any suspicious persons or activity in or around your business.
- Please share any information you believe may be related to arson on the **Arson Alarm Hotline** at 1-800-55-ARSON. A reward may be provided for information resulting in an arson conviction. Persons providing information may remain anonymous.

For More Information

Contact:

Benton County Fire District #1
staff@bentonone.org