



# Protecting your Business Premises during a Lockdown

## INTRODUCTION

With some business premises having to close during lockdowns, the Centor Risk Management Division provides advice on how to keep your premises safe during such a period. Vacant premises that are left uncared for are at greater risk of being targeted for trespass, theft, malicious damage and arson.

Proactive action now is better than reactive action when it's too late. Most of the precautions provided in this section are little more than common sense and good practice and will help reduce the risk of the vacant premises becoming a target.

## PRECAUTIONS



- Introduce regular (at least weekly) internal and external inspections of the premises.
- Ensure combustible contents are cleared from the building and waste is removed without delay.
- Electrical equipment should be turned off and unplugged, and electrical systems isolated at the main fuse board, unless critical to the continued running of your business. Fire risks or burnable materials, such as old packaging or wooden pallets, should be moved off site.
- Isolate all water, electricity and gas services where possible (unless required for intruder/fire alarms, sprinkler systems or heating).
- Ensure any vegetation is cut back to prevent the buildings becoming secluded or in dry conditions providing fuel for a fire.
- Make sure your outdoor lighting is working and preferably on a sensor. Visible alarms that light up at night will make burglars think twice about targeting your property.
- Ensure all doors and windows and outbuildings are suitably secured with good quality locks, gaps under doors are as narrow as possible and letterboxes are sealed up where possible.
- Test your CCTV system, intruder alarm, fire and sprinkler systems and ensure they are all fully operational. Make sure cameras are well positioned to cover as much of your property, internally and externally, as possible.
- Consider contracting the services of an NSI approved Manned Guarding Security Company.
- Ensure there are no open manholes, excavations and potential hazards on the owned land.

## FURTHER GUIDANCE

If you have any questions regarding the above or specific policy coverage and conditions, please contact Centor and speak to your dedicated Account Manager.

**Intruder Alarm/CCTV installers & Manned Guarding Companies - National Security Inspectorate** [www.nsi.org.uk](http://www.nsi.org.uk)

**Specialist Security Companies - British Security Industry Association** - [www.bsia.co.uk](http://www.bsia.co.uk)  
(search under 'Vacant Property Protection')

**Government Fire Safety Guidance** - [www.communities.gov.uk/fire/firesafety/firesafetylaw](http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/firesafety/firesafetylaw)

**Health & Safety Executive** - [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)