

ALLIANZ COMMERCIAL

Don't be idle, take care of vacant buildings

Risk bulletin

Just because your commercial property is vacant doesn't mean you can eliminate maintenance. The lack of regular use makes it more susceptible to fires, vandalism and freeze-ups. So, it's important to be extra vigilant in monitoring your idle or vacant buildings to prevent these costly losses.

Inspect the building daily or, if not possible, at least at random times during the week. Look for signs of forced entry, vandalism, graffiti, broken plumbing lines, or other breaches. Be sure to document the inspections.

The following checklist can help you take the necessary precautions.

Fire

Keep sprinkler systems in operation

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Remove unnecessary combustibles

- Eliminate fire hazards within buildings by removing as many combustibles as possible
- Remove any debris or other combustible items within 25 feet of any building
- · Cut grass short, ideally three inches or less
- Keep brush and weeds cleared from around buildings, yard transformers and other outside service equipment
- Remove all waste material such as idle pallets, empty cardboard cartons, or any trash created during any move.

Reduce exposures from hazardous operations, in particular those involving flammable liquids

- · Turn off electrical equipment
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