

## ***Open & Vacant Structures***

Any building or home that is open and vacant is a violation of city code. According to City Code, a vacant structure that is not secured against entry shall be *"deemed unsafe. All such unsafe buildings, structures or appendages are hereby declared to be public nuisances and shall be abated by repair, rehabilitation, demolition or removal."* What this means is that if you own a property that is currently unoccupied, be sure to keep it closed and secure. If you don't, you might get a fine of up to \$2,000.

### ***Examples of Open & Vacant Structures:***



**When abandoned houses remain open and unsecured, they provide opportunities for illegal activities such as prostitution and drug sales. Sometimes vagrants can gain access and burn it down while trying to stay warm in winter months -- as was done to this former home.**

**Abandoned business can also deteriorate, and become eyesores, nuisances, and promote urban blight. Code officers and staff work every day to board up and secure these facilities.**





**This abandoned house is a perfect example of how the Code Compliance Department works to abate urban blight in our neighborhoods. Now the neighbors in this area can rest easy, knowing that no one can enter this structure.**

***So what could happen to the owners of open and vacant properties if they don't take care of their responsibilities?***

They could face fines of up to \$2000.