



Christmas Safety and Security Advice

With Christmas approaching the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour will usually increase, as will issues for personal safety in and outside your home.

So how do we address these problems?

Safety:

- Inspect and test lights on your cars and bicycles;
- Test smoke / carbon monoxide detectors, install at least one on each level of your home;
- Ensure you have spare batteries for torches, smoke / carbon monoxide detectors;
- Speak to your local fire safety officer for advice and a possible free smoke detector;
- Check your home external security/safety lighting;
- Ensure you have Hi- Vis jackets in the car for yourself and each passenger;
- Cyclist/motor cyclist wear Hi-Vis clothing whilst out riding;
- Pedestrians/ joggers etc. wear Hi-Vis clothing whilst out walking/running especially on country roads;
- Dog walkers- has your dog got its own Hi-Vis coat? The more visible you both are the safer you will be;
- Consider Elderly and/or vulnerable persons living nearby that may require your help and assistance with the above;
- Report any streetlights that are not working to your local council (each lamp column has a number on it.)

Security:

- Inspect and test security lighting;
- Secure garden tools/mowers etc. that will not be used over Winter;
- Check the locks work on your doors, windows, gates, sheds, outbuildings and oil tanks etc;
- Consider a house alarm being installed (one of the best deterrents against burglary);
- If you have an alarm, has it been tested/serviced recently;
- CCTV is another deterrent and can record good evidence of an incident;
- Many more homes are installing cost effective CCTV kits (Plug & Play) Insure you only gather images of your property and speak with a local security company for a more professionally installed system;
- Set your alarm and lock all windows and doors when going out. (Removing keys from locks is a condition of insurance);
- Create the illusion of occupancy in rooms you would normally occupy - test timers that switch on home lighting, security lighting. Set timers to come on at various times;
- "Fake TV" is a good idea it's a box of LED lights that flash to simulate a TV on in the room;
- Do not leave all your Xmas presents around the Christmas Tree. Hide the more valuable ones until the day, use the loft if possible, place them around the house rather than all in one place;
- Consider Elderly and/or vulnerable persons living nearby that may require your help and assistance with the above.