

WIRRAL SAFETY NEWS

Safety advice for your home, vehicle and yourself



Courtesy of



Mid Wirral Crime Prevention Panel



Registered Charity No. 702343

Content

Welcolme to Mid Wirral Crime Prevention Panel safety publication – we hope you read and benefit from the information it contains.

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Welcome to Mid-Wirral Crime Prevention Panel

Registered Charity No. 702343

History & Objectives

The Panel was formed in 1987 and aims to identify crime related problems, to consider methods of tackling these and to undertake projects designed to assist in solving the problems.

The Panel has a formal written constitution and is registered with the Charity Commission.

Area of Operations

The Panel operate in the Mid-Wirral Area of Merseyside, in the North West of the UK. This area includes the villages of Barnston, Bebington, Brimstage, Bromborough, Eastham, Gayton, Greasby, Heswall, Irby, New Ferry, Pensby, Port Sunlight, Raby Mere, Storeton, Thingwall and Thornton Hough.

Membership

The Panel is made up of local volunteer members of the community from a variety of backgrounds and who work closely with Merseyside Police who provide technical advice, statistics and general support.

For more information please visit our website at

www.mwcpp.org.uk

Home Security

Take a look at your home....see if you can notice how a burglar would enter.



Doors If your front and back doors are not secure then neither is your home. Keep them locked...even when you are at home. Keep all keys away from the door to prevent thefts via your letterbox. Never leave spare keys under a plant or housebrick, good quality key safes are available from DIY stockists. Sliding Patio Doors or French Windows are a target

for potential thieves. Anti-lift devices are available for Patio doors to stop them from being lifted from their tracks.

Windows Ensure all windows are locked, even at night. Locks are available for all types of windows and if visible from outside the property will deter opportunistic thieves from trying to enter. Keep all keys in a safe place. Louvre windows are especially vulnerable. Either glue the slats into place or fit a Louvre lock. Ask at your local DIY or glaziers for more information.



Security Systems If you have no security system fitted then contact a local recognised company for a free quotation. Both wired and wire free systems are available. DIY systems are also available from recognised retailers. If your system is in place then please ensure it is well maintained. Visible burglar alarms can often deter a burglar.

Security Lighting Security lighting can detract burglars at night, the last thing a burglar wants to be is seen. Lighting can be an inexpensive but very effective deterrent against potential thieves. Various styles of security lighting are available from welcome lighting to floodlights. Some internal lighting can be activated by plug in timer switches. This can be used whether you are in or out of the house. The plug in timer switches can also activate radios or other items to give the prospective burglar the feeling that the home is occupied. Handy for when you are on holiday or just away from the home.





Property Marking It is good practice to list and mark item within the home, garage, car or personal items you may carry with you. Ultra Violet marking pens are available. Just write on the item your Postcode followed by your house number such as NT 42 9 WA 7. Other ways of marking may be to engrave items or use Smartwater or Select DNA to identify your items.

Speak to your local crime prevention officer for more information.

Safes Small home safes are ideal for containing items. Some have a key or digital entry. Small home safes are very affordable and having more than one in different locations of the home is a great way to ensure items have greater protection.



Give each safe a different access code for more protection.



Keys

Don't leave keys near a front door, or in view of a window. Keep your keys safe by placing them out of sight, preferably taking them with you when you go to bed.

If you have a digital camera then take photos of all your items, list their serial numbers. This information can then be burnt onto a CD or DVD and copies can be stored in secure locations.

Neighbourhood Watch or Homewatch schemes are a great way to look after those around you. Check with your local Police force on how to join such a scheme or go online at :

<http://www.wirralcommunitymessaging.org/>

Garages, Sheds and Gardens



Garages

Garages are always a target for thieves. Most garages are full of bits and pieces that can easily be sold on by a thief. Most tools are never marked and therefore would be untraceable. Try to lock all tool in boxes, then place the keys in a safe location within the house. Garage alarms can be a great deterrent and battery operated systems can be obtained from good quality retailers. If the garage is connected directly to the house then ensure the connecting door is alarmed or fitted with good quality locks. And once again ensure the door is kept locked.

Sheds

Sheds and other outbuilding are targets for thefts. Usually away from the house the shed, like the garage can contain items which can easily be sold on by the thieves. Try to fit good quality locks and bolts to your sheds. Battery operated shed alarms can be purchased at good retailers and are very easy to fit. Consider fixing lockable steel boxes to the garage or shed floor to store your tools.



Gardens

Gardens can be a place to relax, but also a place to hide for thieves.

Make sure that all tools have been locked away when finished with. Shovels, spades and other items can be used to jemmy open doors and windows. If you have a set of ladders, ensure they are secured safe. Even if they are in a garage or shed, try to bolt them down or secure them by using a chain and lock.

Personal Items

Personal Items

Personal items such as cameras and mp3 players can be marked with an Ultra Violet pen, which when exposed will reveal any message when placed under Ultra Violet light. You may wish to engrave your item.

Modern mobile phones can be fitted with a tracking facility, to enable the user to locate them should they be stolen. Free and subscription applications are available on the internet.

Mobile phones and other gadgets may be placed on a register at

<http://www.immobilise.com>

If your phone, bike, computer or any other registered item is lost or stolen, use Immobilise to instantly tell police, insurers, and the second-hand trade. These actions help greatly in the recovery of your property and capture of thieves.

Small bells which attach to your purse or handbag will help alert you if the item is moved without your knowledge. Cords or chains which attach to your purse and your handbag or other item are inexpensive ways to help discourage pickpockets from stealing your purse.



Credit Cards

Ensure all cards are kept secure, keep your PIN a secret, never tell anyone the number even if they claim to be from the bank or other organization.

If you have more than one card, try to use a different PIN for each card.

A good method to ensure this happens is by using the long number on the card,

Such as 1234 5678 0123 4567

Pick a number (say 2) then the second number of each block could be your PIN for that card so for the above 16 digit number, 2 would give us a PIN of 2615

Pick 4 and the PIN would be 4837.

Count forward, backwards the choice is yours. Apply this format to all cards and as each card number is different, each PIN will be different.

Cold Callers and Bogus Callers



Bogus Callers

If a cold caller comes to your door :

ALWAYS if you have a chain, put it on before opening the door

ALWAYS ask the caller for ID...if the caller is valid then they will have an ID card with details for you to verify their

identity. To check a caller is genuine you can look up the number in the phone book or a recent bill and check it against the card the caller has given you.

Do not just ring the number on the card – it may be fake. They will wait while you go and call their office for verification. Ask your service providers if they operate a password service.

DON'T make any immediate decisions...think it over before you commit to any contract. This will give you time to get other quotes from different companies.

DON'T be afraid to say no...

You can always contact the local Trading Standards office for advice.

Distraction Burglaries

If you are suspicious about a caller then **NEVER** let them in your property.

DON'T spend any length of time at your front door, ask them to return when you have somebody else there.

If you are suspicious then try to remember as much as you can about the caller...such as their appearance, clothing any description of any vehicle they may be using.

Please inform the Police..

Download further information at:

<http://thecrimepreventionwebsite.com/>

Cars, Motorcycles and Bicycles



Cars

Manufacturer's car security is always improving but we have a part to play in the security of our car and its contents. Never leave anything on show...

Thieves will gain entry whichever way possible, they don't care about the damage they cause. So please ensure you remove your Satnav and its holder. Any mobile phone holder that fits to a windscreen, will when removed, leave rings on the glass. This is a giveaway to potential thieves that there may be something of value within the car. So please try to wipe the screen once you removed the phone, satnav or other cradles you fit to the glass. Always fold in wing mirrors to avoid accidental or malicious damage to your car.

Motorcycles

Motorcycles are a target for both opportunist and professional thieves. Always secure the steering lock when leaving your motorcycle, even for a short time. Try to use a steel cable or chain lock to secure the motorcycle to when leaving it for any length of time. Try to lock it to an immovable object or even another motorcycle. Padlocks are available with built in alarms which sound if the lock is knocked or tampered with.



The correct clothing should always be worn, check your helmet for any signs of wear and tear. Any defects, rips or tears to your jackets or trousers could affect any protection they may give you in the event of an accident. Check gloves and footwear are suitable for your needs.



Bicycles

Bicycles like motorcycles need to be secured when not in use. Bicycles can be engraved or stamped with a unique identifying number and can then be recorded. This will help the Police reunite the bicycle with its true owner in the event of any theft recovery. Don't forget to put the lock on even when storing the bicycle in the shed or garage.

Fire Protection



We never want a fire in our property, but if it happens we should all know what to do. Try to make a simple evacuation plan for your home.

Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms come in various forms. Most are battery operated and are easy to fit. Mains powered alarms are available. If you have a battery powered fire alarm, please test the battery regularly, and change it if necessary. Some alarms are fitted with lights which give the user emergency lighting when activated.



Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Items that can burn gas, oil, wood & petrol can produce Carbon Monoxide. Its not just gas boilers, fires, cookers and ovens that can produce this killer gas. Other items like heaters fires and oil fired boilers can also effect the production of Carbon Monoxide. Carbon Monoxide is tasteless, colourless and has no smell. Alarms are widely available and are easy to fit. As with smoke alarms if it is battery powered, test and change the batteries when necessary.



Fire Extinguishers and Blankets

Fire extinguishers and blankets are widely available and can cost as little as £30 for a pair. Whilst large fires should never be tackled by the occupier, these items are ideal for other smaller fires.

HOWEVER IF YOU ARE UNSURE ALWAYS CALL THE FIRE BRIGADE.



Personal Safety

Away From Home

If you will be away from home on holiday, business, hospital treatment, whatever the causesecure your home.

Tell a neighbour or friend, give them a contact number for a keyholder of your property. Leave with them any specific instructions, should there be an event in your absence.

Ensure ALL windows and doors are secure. Make sure any deliveries such as milk or papers are cancelled. Ask somebody to check on your mail, make sure none is sticking out of the letterbox.

Going Out

If you think you're being followed, head for a busy, well lit place. Stay away from dark quiet areas. If you are attacked, scream and make as much noise as you can. Carry a small personal alarm if you feel threatened.

Try to avoid any confrontation by walking or running away. If you have to use force, only use enough to get you out of danger.

Avoid using cashpoint machines when you've been drinking, you're far more vulnerable when you're drunk. Always shield the keypad when inserting your PIN number.



Useful Telephone Numbers and Websites

Merseyside Police Emergency : 999 Non Emergency: 101
<http://www.merseyside.police.uk/>

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service Emergency : 999
<http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk/> Non Emergency 0800 731 5958

North West Ambulance Service Emergency : 999
<http://www.nwas.nhs.uk/>

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111
<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Home Office
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office>

Age Concern 0800 169 6565
<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/>

Victim Support 0845 30 30 900
<http://www.victimsupport.org.uk/>

Merseyside Police Interactive Crime Prevention Guide
<http://www.thesharpsystem.com/vid/cap/>

Mid Wirral Crime Prevention Panel www.mwcpp.org.uk

Wirral Borough Council 0151 606 2000

Neighbourhood Watch 0151 606 5457

Arrowe Park Hospital 0151 678 5111

Clatterbridge Hospital 0151 334 4000

Mill Lane Hospital 0151 678 7272

St Catherines Hospital 0151 651 0011