



Neighbourhood Watch



Date Monday 7th June

SUMMER CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE 2010

During the long days of summer it's all too easy to become forgetful about things that matter – such as keeping your belongings safe and secure.

Police in mid and north Essex are urging residents to think about the security of their property and take sensible precautions during the hot summer weather.

Crime Reduction Adviser (CRA) Trisha Staerck says:

“It's important to keep cool during the hot weather, but I would urge residents to be sensible at the same time. Unfortunately, passing thieves or burglars can regard an open door or window as an opportunity for them to chance their luck, and attempt to steal your property. It's also very easy to doze off for a few minutes in the hot weather – providing a thief with the opportunity they're looking for. So, please be sensible even when you're at home.

“If you're leaving your home unoccupied – whilst going to work, doing the shopping, going on the school run – please check all your doors and windows to ensure that they're closed and locked before going out. Nobody wants to come home to the disruption and heartache of a burglary.”

CRA Staerck also has some specific advice in response to a number of recent burglaries in the region where thieves have gained or forced entry to homes from the rear garden:

“I would urge residents to make it as difficult as possible for criminals to gain access to the rear of your property. Please ensure that the locks and bolts to your garden doors are in good condition, and can do their important job of keeping unwanted visitors out.”

One easy way of improving your home security is to fit and use an alarm.

CRA Staerck says: “I would ask residents to consider fitting burglar alarms, which can both deter burglars and help police to catch them. Some people don't put their alarms on at night, but I would urge everyone to do so by zoning certain areas on the ground floor level. Burglars may try to gain entry to homes overnight, and they will then typically steal whatever they can find in the living room or kitchen – such as televisions, computers, purses or wallets, and the keys to your car. Switching your alarm on overnight is a highly effective way of protecting your belongings from these criminals.”

If you live in mid or north Essex and would like further information on keeping your property and belongings secure, please contact crime reduction advisors Stephen Armson-Smith for Braintree, Trisha Staerck for Chelmsford and Maldon, and Peter Caulfield for Uttlesford, on 0300 3334444.