

# **Newsletter from Evesham Rural North Policing Team**

**To begin with ALL INCIDENTS AND CRIME NEED TO BE REPORTED!**

**Your Rural Business has become a target for thieves NOW is the time to act!**

**Q. WHY?!?! The Police do not do anything???**

**A. Policing is determined by the National Intelligence Model, which is driven by recorded incidents and recorded crime.**

**If you don't report incidents or crime then rural crime "is off the radar".**

Here is some crime prevention that can help to try and reduce Rural Crime.

## **Your business/home is your castle . . .**

Our ancestors had full control over entry and exits to their castles.

They achieved this by having a combined entry and exit point using gates, watch towers, moats, walls and guards.

- Look closely at the perimeter of your property, remove all gates and entrances that you no longer use.
- Plant thorn hedges with deep ditches and bunds.
- Change the layout of your business to establish a single entrance and exit.
- Place a gate at the public end to your entrance to make it less inviting.
- Place a second inner gate at the private end of entrance to your property.
- Invert and cap gate hinges so that gates cannot be lifted off, or use good padlocks with covers so they cannot be cut off. Also ensure all fixing bolts cannot be removed.
- If a gate is not being used for a lengthy period, place a temporary obstruction in front of it so it cannot be opened or used for parking or rubbish tipping.
- Use locking posts or temporary obstructions to control large openings to yards
- Cattle grids should be removable and locked out of position when not in use.
- Place CCTV at the inner gate to record the number plates of vehicles and the faces of drivers. Place CCTV signs up as well.
- Install sensor controlled 'dusk to dawn' security lights to alert you to visitors
- Install an infra red device at the inner gate which will sound an alarm / bell to alert you to visitors.
- Join Farm Watch, obtain signs from your local team and place them on your gate posts.
- Place signs stating 'you do not buy from calling sales persons'

## **Protect your Property . . .**

Historically, many Farm buildings were built for Storage, not for Security. Now they need to be secure as well as to provide cover.

- Put yourself in the place of a thief; inspect your buildings and upgrade your storage to reflect the value of the property stored in it. Fit high quality locks. Ensure the fabric of the building is secure. Seek advice from a Police Crime Reduction Officer.
- Add indoor security by installing sensors with audible alarms. Display signs to show you have alarms installed.

- Consider CCTV
- Store all your property indoors when not in use.
- Keep all doors locked, except when the building or office is in use and there is someone present
- If your building shell is poor, use secondary secure storage such as a container.

### **Tractors, Agricultural Machinery and Trailers . . .**

- Nothing should be stored or kept in a visible location, except when in use. When vehicles or plant of any sort are kept outside they should be kept locked and the keys kept in your possession or in a locked key cupboard.
- Keep diesel levels to a minimum.

### **Prepare for a loss . . .**

- All property must be uniquely marked, photographed and recorded in an asset register/home file that includes serial, chassis and model numbers.
- Use property marking solutions to uniquely mark all types of property, or post code your property in a non-visible place and photograph it. Marking solutions: Smartwater - [www.smartwater.com](http://www.smartwater.com) or **contact NHW below** or Selectamark - [www.selectamark.co.uk](http://www.selectamark.co.uk) or Identidot - [www.identidot.com](http://www.identidot.com) or [www.crimestopperspropertyprotector.com](http://www.crimestopperspropertyprotector.com)
- If your property is high value fit a tracking device or a data tracking chip. Your insurance company, or a Police Crime Reduction Officer will be able to advise you on the best product.
- Register valuable plant; the national plant and equipment register ([www.ter-europe.org](http://www.ter-europe.org)) runs an international database of owned and stolen equipment. It employs staff who work with law enforcement agencies to identify and recover stolen equipment. You can register five items for free. Tractors and other agricultural machinery, trailers, caravans, quarry equipment and generators are amongst the most stolen items.

### **Computer and Identity Security . . .**

- Your computer is vulnerable to electronic theft as well as thieves. Ensure you have an up-to-date virus checker and firewall if you use email or the internet.
- Identity theft is an emerging crime. Buy a home shredder for all unwanted personal documents.

### **Diesel and Heating Oil Tanks . . .**

- Avoid sitting storage tanks in isolated areas such as outlying buildings. A mobile bowser could be used instead and removed to a secure location when not in use.
- For tanks located close to an electricity supply there are additional options - better lighting, motion sensors and alarms - to act as further deterrents. Oil level gauges, alarmed padlocks and defensive planting with thorny plants are further options.

### **Caravan Storage . . .**

Caravans are very desirable and thieves will go to extraordinary measures to steal them. There are existing industry standards which you should aspire to.

- The Caravan Storage Site Owners association ([www.cassoa.co.uk](http://www.cassoa.co.uk)) has a scheme for accrediting storage facilities. Secured by Design ([www.securebydesign.com](http://www.securebydesign.com)) have a secure caravan parks accreditation scheme.

## Rural Arson . . .

Rural businesses have many sensitive potential arson locations.

- Hay and Straw should be removed from fields as soon as possible after harvesting.
- Hay and Straw should be stored: Separately from other buildings, particularly those housing fuels, agrochemicals and machinery. Also in stacks reasonable size, spaced at least 10 meters apart, separately from livestock housing as well.
- Petrol, Diesel and other fuels should be stored in secure areas and storage tanks outlets should be padlocked
- Fertilisers and pesticides should be kept under lock and key. The health & safety executive can provide further advice on the storage and transportation of fertilisers, particularly ammonium nitrate.
- Refuse should be disposed of safely and on a regular basis.

## Local Community . . .

A Strong sense of community still exists in rural locations.

- Join the Farm Watch Scheme or if already joined encourage other people to join.
- Find out who the local Police Contact is for your area . . . contact details for Evesham Rural North are at the bottom of this email.
- If you have a suspicious caller at your business/home, record the vehicle registration number, descriptions of the persons and report this to the police.

## **Don't be a Victim . . . ACT NOW!**

As well as these messages being sent out, the team here rely on the vigilant members of our community to keep us informed of any information/intelligence.

We encourage all members of our Community to report incidents no matter how big or little they are.

This message if possible needs to be passed on to all contacts for your areas. We really appreciate your help and your continued support!

Shed alarms are available at the Contact Centre, Abbey Road, Evesham. They cost £3.58 and can be adapted for many uses by lengthening the cord the pin is attached to. They emit a loud alarm once the pin is removed and can be quite disorientating.

For more practical home security tips, visit:

[www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

To register valuable items of property such as bikes and mobile phones etc, visit:

[www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

For more information on the property marking system 'Smartwater' please contact NHW co-ordinator Sharon Summers:

[SASFreeSpirit@aol.com](mailto:SASFreeSpirit@aol.com)

**Please do not report incidents via this email address. If you wish to report any new non emergency incidents please call 101 at the time of the incident occurring.**

In an emergency always call 999.