

# Latest Community Safety news 18/03/2025

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The Community Safety Newsletter aims to keep Buckinghamshire residents, businesses and partner agencies informed about what the Community Safety Team has recently been involved in, crime prevention advice, information on awareness-raising campaigns and upcoming events.

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## Vehicle Crime Project

Due to a reported increase in vehicle related crime, the Community Safety team are running a vehicle crime project across Buckinghamshire which includes:

- **Clear Car campaigns:** Community Safety Officers (CSO's) and the local Neighbourhood Policing teams have visited a variety of car parks and noted down registration details of those cars displaying items on show, which could lead to a potential break in. Items on show have consisted of wallets, handbags, cash and much more! Owners who are spotted leaving valuables on show receive a crime prevention letter with advice and information on how to keep their vehicle safe. Remember – always keep your car clear!
- Keep an eye out on our social media pages for tips to keep your vehicle safe from crime.
- **Community Events:** Our CSOs will be attending various events in the community such as wellbeing events, education events and Community Action Days where vehicle crime prevention items and advice will be given out free of charge.
- **Number plate screws project:** CSO's have partnered with eight garages across Buckinghamshire with the aim of reducing number plate theft. You can attend selected garages and ask to have anti-tamper proof number plate screws installed for **FREE** on your vehicle. You will also be provided with an air freshener or ice scraper with crime prevention messaging on, a 'no tools left in van overnight' sticker (if relevant) and leaflets all displaying vehicle crime related messages.

### Head to the following garages and ask about the scheme\*:

- o Aylesbury: Tyre Pros, Park Street, HP20 1DX
- o Aylesbury: Kwik Fit, Wynne Jones Business Centre, Walton Road, HP21 7RL
- o Buckingham, Eurolane MOT, Swan Business Centre, Unit 5 Osier Way, MK18 1TB
- o Chesham, Tyre Pros, Amersham Road, HP5 1NG
- o Iver, Kwik Fit, Shredding Green Garage, Langley Park Road, SL0 0JG
- o Amersham, Kwik Fit, 2A-2B St Georges Industrial Estate, White Lion Road, HP7 9JQ
- o High Wycombe, Kwik Fit, 97 London Road, HP11 1BU

o High Wycombe, Kwik Fit, 511 London Road, Wycombe Marsh, HP11 1EP



*\*Whilst stocks last - please note, a small selection of car models aren't compatible with the rear numberplate screws.*

### **Learn Pre-Defence and Self-Defence skills for free**

We have recently delivered free Self-Defence classes for women and girls, 12+ living in and around Chesham and the Ivers. The classes are designed to empower women and girls, with the understanding of how to pre-empt any potential situations through pre-defence and to learn the skills of how to defend themselves if a situation does arise.

The sessions were well attended, with women and girls learning key skills on how to protect themselves.

Sign up to our next class in Wycombe on Saturday 26 April. Visit - [Community Safety Eventbrite](#) to book your space!



## Spring Crime

With Spring just around the corner, you may start planning to tidy your garden in preparation for the warmer months. Unfortunately, statistics show that there is often a spike in shed burglaries in the spring.

As the weather heats up, opportunistic thieves will start to look out for open windows, unsecured sheds, gardening tools and bikes that have been left out.



### Here are a few simple tips to keep your shed and tools safe:

Clearly security mark all tools with your house number, name and postcode.

- When you are finished with your tools, lock them away in your shed. A ladder left out can be used to break into your house.
- Use a good quality padlock or mortice lock on the door of your shed.
- Make sure windows, hinges and hasp fittings are strong, as this can often be an entry point.
- Fit external, motion-activated security lighting.
- Lock bikes to a fixed structure.
- If your shed has a window, cover it up or obscure the view.
- Don't leave house doors/ windows open whilst in the garden, as an opportunistic thief might take advantage while you are busy in the garden.
- You could also consider defensive planting to prevent anyone coming into your garden; nature's own way to reduce crime. Criminals do not like climbing through prickly plants and hedges! They know that a small item of ripped clothing or blood can help the police identify them.

For more tips on how to keep your home safe from crime visit:

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/protect-home-crime>

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## **ATM Thefts**

Thames Valley police have notified us that there is a current spate of distraction thefts at cash machines (ATMs) occurring across Buckinghamshire.

Suspects use a variety of different distraction techniques which can include; stating the victim has dropped money nearby, claiming the ATM is faulty and then assisting by pressing the cancel button, waving paper in front of the screen, or shouting at the victim.

Card trap devices have also been recorded as used; they are placed over the card slot of the ATM which prevents a person's card being released back to them.

### **Top tips to keep yourself safe:**

- Look out for anything unusual on or around the machine - If you see something suspicious do not use the machine and report it.
- Be aware of anyone hanging around the ATM or standing too close to you – use another machine or ask them to stand back.
- Always cover the PIN pad before entering your PIN.
- Do not allow anyone to distract you whilst you are at the ATM.
- Put your card and money away immediately.

If you are suspicious or have any concerns – cancel your transaction, remove your card and report it to the police on 101 or online via [Report a crime | Thames Valley Police](#)

In the unfortunate event you become a victim of this crime, report it immediately to your card issuer to freeze your cards.

# Distraction Technique Examples

Standing too close so they distract you or read your PIN as you type it in



Tapping your shoulder or saying you have something on your clothing to distract you



Scare you or make you jump to distract you

Drop money on the floor to distract you



Offer you help in order to distract you



**OUT OF ORDER**

Distract you by saying that the Cash Machine (ATM) is not working and directing you to another machine

## **Be Waterwise**

As we head towards warmer weather, we tend to see an increase in young people visiting outdoor spaces, especially where there is water. The water may look calm and appealing, however we would like to remind the public that there are many hidden dangers beneath the surface, such as:

- Cold water shock; this is your body's response to being suddenly immersed into water. Your body's reaction will affect your capability to move and may seriously



affect your breathing and heart. It will also increase the difficulty in getting out of the water.

- Depth of the water; this regularly changes and is unpredictable
- Underwater objects; there are many hazards that you cannot see – there could be a shopping trolley that has been discarded or plants that you could get entangled in
- Strong currents
- Uneven banks and riverbeds
- Water quality
- The height of the fall or jump if tombstoning (jumping from height e.g. from a bridge)

Be #Waterwise, watch and share our partnership water safety video, featuring Olympic Gold Medalist, Tom Dean - [Be #Waterwise this Summer - YouTube](#)



## Safe Place scheme

Are you aware of our Safe Place Scheme? It's a scheme which aims to create confidence in members of the community when they are out and about in public. It gives vulnerable people a place to go if they are feeling lost, scared or confused when out in their local community.

Shops and businesses such as cafes, libraries and charity shops display a sticker in their window to show that staff are available to offer help or reassurance. Members of the scheme will sometimes carry a 'close contact' card which they can hand to the staff member, they will then call their chosen contact for them in a time of need.

For a list of Safe Places in the Buckinghamshire area, visit - <https://shorturl.at/X7cqd>

If you are a business and would like to sign up to become a safe place, contact [safeplace@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:safeplace@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)



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## Stay Safe at Home with Our Free Online Home Fire Safety Check

At Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, your safety is our priority. The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) reports that in 1987, only 9% of UK households had a working smoke alarm. Today, that figure has risen to approximately 90%, helping to save countless lives.

Despite this progress, many homes still have fire risks. To help you stay safe, we offer a free **Online Home Fire Safety Check** - a quick, easy-to-use tool providing personalised fire safety advice tailored to your home.




In just 15 minutes, this online service will guide you through:

- ✓ Ensuring smoke alarms are correctly placed and functioning
- ✓ Planning a safe escape route in case of emergency
- ✓ Identifying potential fire risks in your home

If the results indicate a higher risk, you may be eligible for a free **Home Fire Safety Visit**, where our team can provide additional support.

This online service is available 24/7, making it perfect for those with busy schedules or anyone supporting elderly relatives or neighbours (with their consent).

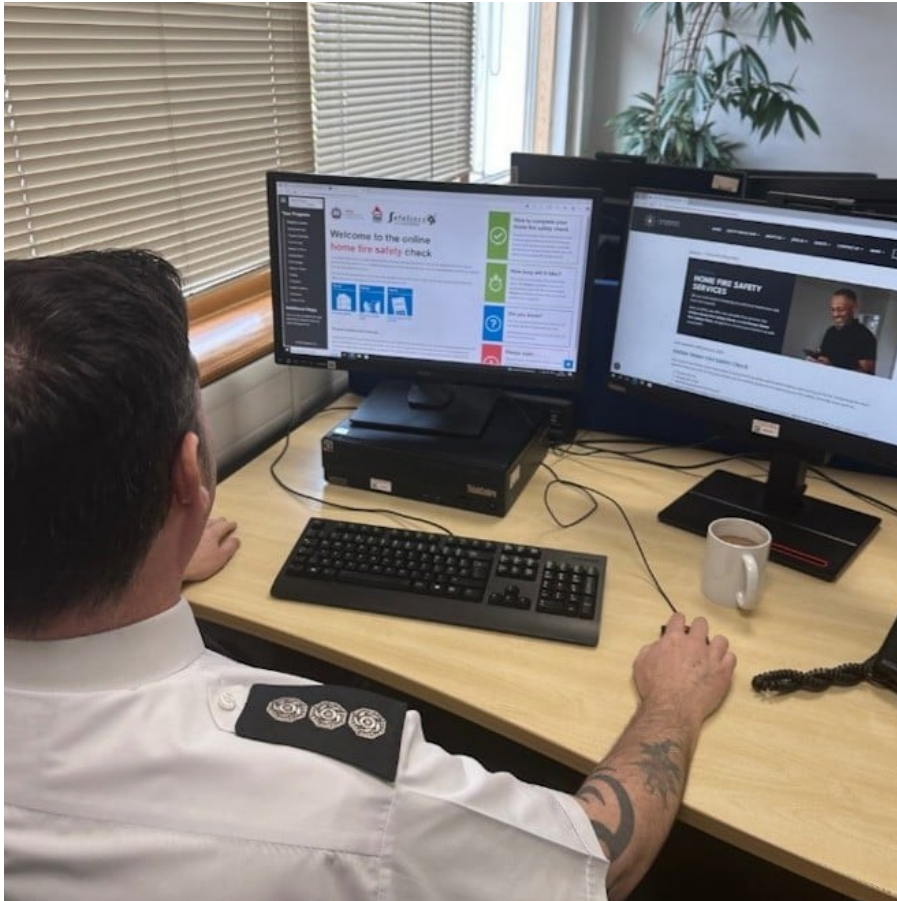
 Start your Online Home Fire Safety Check today:

<https://www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc/?ref=BKSFRS%20>

Need extra help? If you're unable to complete the online form, call us on **01296 744477** or email: [referrals@bucksfire.gov.uk](mailto:referrals@bucksfire.gov.uk) to discuss your situation.

◆ *A note for landlords:* Providing working smoke alarms is a legal responsibility, and this service is not a substitute for compliance.

Taking this simple step could help prevent fires and save lives. Let's make your home safer today!



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## Cold Callers

Cold callers showing up at your door can not only be a nuisance but can also be intimidating to some. Cold callers are uninvited people showing up at your door and trying to pressure you for information, money, to sell you things or to persuade you to get work done around your home.

If uninvited people show up at your door:

- Check who is there through a window or peep hole and don't feel obligated to answer or talk to them
- If you do talk to them, don't agree to anything on the spot
- Get quotes from other companies before deciding if work needs doing
- Never pay cash on your doorstep
- Report scammers to the authorities

Some people in Buckinghamshire who are susceptible to frequent unsolicited or nuisance callers at their door may be able to get a door camera for free from Buckinghamshire & Surrey trading standards. The camera is triggered by someone coming to your door and sends an alert to your smart phone.



## Am I eligible and how do I get one?

Apply online by scanning this QR code



Email us at [trading.standards@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@surreycc.gov.uk)

Or phone Citizens Advice on **0808 223 1133** and ask for a door camera from Buckinghamshire & Surrey Trading Standards.

 [@Bucks\\_SurreyTS](https://twitter.com/Bucks_SurreyTS)  [BucksSurreyTS](https://www.facebook.com/BucksSurreyTS)

Newsletter: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/tradingstandards)

[www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards)

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## Nuisance Phone Calls

Any kind of unwelcome phone call you receive. For example, market research and sales calls. Or criminals pretending to be from a bank, well-known company or government agency trying to get your personal and financial details.

Unfortunately, nuisance phone calls are on the increase. Many of them are scams that aim to con people out of money.

Some people will be eligible to apply for a 'TrueCall' device; which blocks unwanted phone calls to help give you peace and quiet at home, whilst allowing your friends, family and other trusted people to call you.



## Am I eligible and how do I get one?

Apply online by scanning this QR code



Email us at [tradingstandards@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@surreycc.gov.uk)

Or phone Citizens Advice on 0808 223 1133 and ask for a door camera from Buckinghamshire & Surrey Trading Standards.

 [@Bucks\\_SurreyTS](https://twitter.com/Bucks_SurreyTS)  [BucksSurreyTS](https://www.facebook.com/BucksSurreyTS)

Newsletter: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/tradingstandards)

[www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards)

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### Community Action Days

Buckinghamshire Council is joining forces with local partners to help tackle your Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) concerns.

Our Community Action Days are being delivered under the council's flagship '[Opportunity Bucks](#)' programme, which aims to ensure that all Buckinghamshire residents have opportunities to succeed and flourish.

For future event dates visit - [Community Action Days | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

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### Thames Valley Police

The [Thames Valley Police website](#) is full of lots of information, such as how to report a crime and crime reduction advice. The website also provides local area information - you can explore the latest crime statistics, see your Neighbourhood Policing Team and find out what's being done to tackle crime.

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### Social media

Follow us on our social media channels to keep up to date with the latest key messages and crime reduction advice:

- **Facebook:** [@BucksCommunitySafety](https://www.facebook.com/BucksCommunitySafety)
  - **X:** [@Bucks\\_Safety](https://twitter.com/Bucks_Safety)
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- Instagram: [@bucks\\_safety](#)
- Newsletter: [Sign up - Community Safety Quarterly Newsletter](#)

## Useful contacts

Below is a list of useful contact details for local and national services:

<b>Community Safety Team</b>	<a href="#">Anti-Social Behaviour Referral Form</a>  <a href="#">Community Safety Referral Form</a>	<a href="https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/safety-and-crime-in-your-community">https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/safety-and-crime-in-your-community</a>
<b>Crime Stoppers</b>	0800 555 111	<a href="https://crimestoppers-uk.org">https://crimestoppers-uk.org</a>
<b>National Domestic Abuse Helpline</b>	0808 2000 247	<a href="http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk">www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk</a>
<b>Modern Slavery Helpline</b>	08000 121 700	<a href="http://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org">www.modernslaveryhelpline.org</a>
<b>Thames Valley Police</b>	101 – Non-Emergency 999 – Emergency	<a href="https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk">https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk</a>
<b>Victims First</b>	0300 1234 148	<a href="https://www.victims-first.org.uk">https://www.victims-first.org.uk</a>



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