

Stratford Town Newsletter - 20 August 2018

Community Messages

23/08/18 - Warwickshire Trading Standards Electric Blanket Safety Campaign 2018

Book Now for your Free Electric Blanket Safety Test

Autumn has arrived and Warwickshire residents are being urged to book their free electric blanket test now. Bookings are now open to all residents aged 50+.

Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards is launching its annual electric blanket safety testing campaign. Have your electric blanket safety tested FREE of charge this coming October.

In 2017, one in every three of the electric blankets tested failed and faulty electric blankets are a known cause of house fires.

Free electric blanket safety checks will take place at venues across all five districts and boroughs this coming October. Safety tests will be carried out by an expert electrical examiner.

- Monday 1st October, Stratford Briar Croft
- Tuesday 2nd October, Leamington Town Hall
- Wednesday 3rd October, Rugby Fire Station
- Thursday 4th October, Kenilworth Library
- Friday 5th October, Nuneaton Fire Station

Book today by calling the Trading Standards Service on 01926 414024 (office hours) or email: ebtesting@warwickshire.gov.uk

Appointments are allocated on a first come first served basis and are limited.

Don't miss out - book now!

Warwickshire County Councillor Andy Crump, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety said: "Our free electric blanket testing campaign has been running successfully for almost 20 years and in that time we've identified and removed from use thousands of electric blankets that were old, faulty and downright dangerous. Last year one in every three electric blankets tested failed, so it remains as important as every to ensure that your blanket is safety tested and ready for Winter."

Act on Energy will also be at the testing stations to provide free energy efficiency advice to the public. Act on Energy is a charity that encourages energy conservation by providing free and impartial advice to householders and small businesses in Warwickshire and the surrounding local areas.

If you are unable to take advantage of the testing programme you can check your own blankets by looking for the following warning signs:

- the fabric is worn or frayed
- there are scorch marks anywhere
- the tie tapes are damaged or missing
- the flex is worn or damaged
- any connections are loose

Remember older blankets in regular use are much more likely to have one or more of the above faults.

For a complete guide to checking your electric blanket, visit the Warwickshire Trading Standards website:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/electricblanket

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/50603/Warwickshire-Trading-Standards-Electric-Blanket-Safety-Campaign-2018>

22/08/18 - Incidents at homes in Darlow Drive, Gifford walk & Lodge Court, Stratford

Please be aware of the following incidents, which have occurred at homes in your area over recent days:

Incident 298 of 19 August - At some point before 4.20pm on 19 August, offenders attempted to break into a shed at a home in Darlow Drive, Stratford and then did break into a garage at the property. The offenders entered the garage and then emptied a holdall but may have been disturbed as nothing appears to have been stolen.

Incident 211 of 18 August - At some point before 12.30pm on 18 August, offenders stole a Carrera Vengeance bicycle from a shed at a home in Gifford Walk, Stratford.

Incident 291 of 21 August - Between 18 and 21 August, offenders stole a white, ladies bike with a basket on the front and a brown leather seat from the rear garden of a home in Lodge Court, Stratford. The bike was locked and the lock is also missing.

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/50550/Incidents-at-homes-in-Darlow-Drive-Gifford-walk-Lodge-Court-Stratford>

22/08/18 - Preventing Vehicle Crime

Preventing Vehicle Crime

Do not be complacent about keeping your property and your vehicle safe. By following the below advice you can help prevent opportunist thieves from striking.

Never leave anything on show in your vehicle and remember to take your sat nav and audio equipment with you. Always remove the sat nav cradle and wipe away the suction marks.

Remember, never leave the car with its engine running or the keys in the ignition and fit self-locking screws to prevent number plates being stolen and always lock your car and fully close its windows and sunroof when you are leaving it unattended. Double check by pulling your vehicles door handles to ensure the central locking system is working correctly.

Fit anti-theft devices to steering wheels, fuel caps and wheels and park in well-lit areas or in a secure car park. Never leave your mobile phone behind and do not store items in the boot, remember to take them with you.

Keyless entry vehicles, although convenient, are currently an extremely easy target for theft with increasing numbers being stolen. However, there are several steps you can take to reduce your risk.

1. Ensure your vehicle is properly locked and keep keys far away from doors and windows to ensure the vehicle is no longer in range of the key's signal.
2. Place keys in a metal/foiled lined box or container, or another container that blocks the keys signal from reaching the vehicle when it's not in use.
3. Switch off the key's wireless signal when you don't need your vehicle. If you are unsure if the key has this function, find out in your owner's manual.
4. You could also purchase an aftermarket security device, such as a steering wheel lock, a driveway parking post or even a wheel clamp. Even if the thieves are able to access and start your car, these should prevent them from driving away. Many criminals will consider bypassing these as 'too much hassle'.
5. Other steps include checking if there are any software updates for the car itself, remaining vigilant for unusual activity in your area and having an aftermarket immobiliser or tracker fitted.

For further information on all forms of crime prevention, please visit: <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/2099/Crime-and-safety>

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<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/50530/Preventing-Vehicle-Crime>

Contact Details

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Rother Street

Stratford upon Avon

Warwickshire

CV37 6RD

01789 444500 (In an emergency always call 999)

