



Priory Close Neighbourhood Watch

Website <http://pctnhw.yolasite.com>

Operation Starling - crack down on metal theft

Operation Starling commenced on Thursday 08 March until Thursday 15 March and will target metal thieves as part of a nation-wide crackdown on scrap metal theft. Officers will carry out visits to scrap yards and metal dealers, making crime prevention visits to vulnerable premises and conducting roadside stop-checks of vehicles suspected to be involved in the transportation of metal.

The activity is supported by a number of other agencies including Trading Standards, British Transport Police, VOSA and various local authorities.

Thieves have targeted homes and businesses as well as buildings like churches, causing significant damage and distress.

Homeowners and business owners please note the following Lancashire Constabulary advice:

- Avoid leaving anything lying around that could be used to help a thief e.g. ladders.
- Make it difficult for thieves to move stolen goods by storing wheelbarrows and wheelie bins securely.
- Consider anti-vandal paint and property marking.
- Use alternative materials to lead for any repairs - to reduce the risk of becoming a target for thieves.
- Regularly check your roofs so that any theft is found before it rains and further damage is caused.
- Consider installing security lighting, particularly at roof level where metal roof coverings are present.
- Anyone with information about the theft of metal can call the police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Crime prevention material

To help you get the message out, a crime prevention leaflet is available on line that can be printed off and posted. A copy is available at <http://pctnhw.yolasite.com/resources/Lead%20metal%20thefts.pdf>

I have been asked by Lancashire Constabulary Southern Division liaison officer to pass on the following:

Towergate Insurance say they will support Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

They offer; Household Insurance, Private Motor, Travel Insurance, Caravan, Public Liability and many other products.

Contact their local office on 0161 443 0700 for a free no obligation quotation....

For every policy taken out, they will donate £10 towards Neighbourhood Watch Scheme funds. (The money goes to the Chorley Central Liaison Office – not to us)

Please note that at the end of this month, Consumer Direct will no longer be operating. As soon as I know how things will operate in its place I will let you know.

Consumer Alerts

February 2012

Email Scams

The BBC has issued a warning over a scam email circulating. The email claims to be from the daytime television programme "Heir Hunters". The email prompts users to respond with personal information such as full name, date of birth, address etc. You should not reply to the emails.

There has been a number of scam emails reported which are allegedly from banks, building societies or similar. Names quoted are Co-operative Bank, MBNA, Lloyds, Santander and Amazon. All ask the user to respond with personal details to confirm their account details or restore access to blocked account. You should not respond to these emails - banks and building societies will never ask for account information in this way.

Telephone Scams

A telephone call from a lady allegedly from a London based company telling of a virus threat on the internet. The caller then asks you to go onto your computer and connect to the internet. Please do not do this – just put the phone down.

A sales call offering to sell a service stopping unwanted calls. The charge quoted was a one off payment of £1.99 payable by credit card. Please do not give your card details to anyone you are unsure of. You can stop unsolicited sales and marketing calls by registering with the Telephone Preference Service on 0845 070 0707 or visit www.msponline.org.uk for further information about this free service.

Internet Scam

It has been reported that a Lancashire man sent over £4,000 to a person they met on an online dating website. The person he was speaking to repeatedly asked for him to send money claiming they were starving and suicidal. Please be wary about sending money to people you have never met.

Cold Calling Incidents

There have been a number of reports this month of traders cold calling older residents and offering to resurface or reseal their driveway. In each case, work has been very poorly done and the quoted price has increased dramatically once work has started. Trading Standards advice is to never agree to work on the doorstep.

Contact the Trading Standards Service via
Consumer Direct on 0845 04 05 06