

Neighbourhood Watch CROYDON

CroydonEye
Autumn/Winter 2017



Bonfires and fireworks: Advice for Residents in the borough of Croydon from London Fire Brigade.

During the autumn months the London Fire Brigade receives a number of calls to firework related incidents.

Did you know it is illegal to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am? On 5 November, displays can continue until midnight and on certain occasions, such as New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, fireworks can be set off until 1am.

Protect yourself and your community and always follow the firework safety code:

- Only buy fireworks marked with the British Standard Kitemark BS7114
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks
- Keep fireworks in a closed box and always follow the instructions carefully when using them
- Light them at arms length using a taper and stand well back
- Never go back to them once they are lit. Even if a firework hasn't gone off, it could still explode
- Never throw fireworks and never put them in your pocket
- Respect your neighbours – don't let off fireworks late at night and remember there are laws to follow
- Take care with sparklers – never give them to children under five. Even when they have gone out they are still hot so put sparklers in a bucket of water after use
- Keep your pets indoors throughout the evening

Bonfire safety

- Build your bonfire well clear of buildings, garden sheds, fences and hedges
- Never use flammable liquids to start a bonfire and never burn dangerous items such as aerosol cans, paint tins, foam furniture or batteries
- Don't leave bonfires unattended. An adult should supervise it until it has burnt out. If it has to be left, damp it down with plenty of water

- Always keep a bucket of water or a hosepipe nearby in case of fire
- If there is a fire, stay calm, raise the alarm and move as quickly as possible. Don't try to pick up valuables or possessions
- Call the fire brigade on 999 and clearly state the address of the fire.



Our chairman, Brian Udell, explaining the work of our charity to a visitor at the Open Afternoon at the Shirley Windmill on 17th September

IT PAYS TO STOP AND THINK

- 1 Never disclose security details
- 2 Don't assume an email, text or phone call is genuine
- 3 Don't be rushed
- 4 Listen to your instincts
- 5 Stay in control



If you had a paper copy delivered by your co-ordinator, next time could you receive this newsletter via email? If YES please let your NHW Co-ordinator know (their contact details are on the back of this newsletter).

Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association
Email: nhw@cbnwa.com
Website: www.cbnwa.com
Charity no:1087760

NEIGHBOURHOOD Policing Chief Superintendent Jeff Boothe, MET Police

London has suffered several terrorist attacks this year, and the most recent attack on a tube train in Parson Green, reminds us all of the continued need to be vigilant at all times. We ask that you remain **Alert but not alarmed**. I would ask you to be the eyes and ears and help keep yourself, your family and your local community safe by looking out for suspicious activity. Please report it to the police, in confidence by calling 0800 789 321.

This summer has been a busy period in Croydon; one of the main achievements was implementing the Mayoral commitment to have at least 2 dedicated ward officers on every ward in Croydon. These officers will not be taken away from their wards for other police duties, they are responsible for problem solving and being there for you.

My officers have been focused on addressing the increasing violence amongst young people, both as victims and suspects. This worrying increase is not just a problem for Croydon; it is a trend across all boroughs in London. In Croydon we have sought to adopt a

multi-agency approach to tackling the offences which are occurring now. As well as implementing a longer term plan to prevent these issues in the future we have been conducting many weapons sweeps in the borough. These are targeted searches of areas looking for hidden weapons and knives; which may be used to commit offences. The results have been good and we believe this has assisted in reducing the number of offences in the past few months.

In the run up to Halloween and Bonfire Night, we will launch our 'Be Safe' Campaign which is designed to crackdown on the seasonal trend around this time of year in Crime and anti-social behaviour. There will be an increased focus around burglary, robbery, domestic abuse, theft (including shoplifting) and motor vehicle crime.

The continued support which we receive from Neighbourhood Watch is outstanding and I would like to thank you for your continued efforts in looking to keep Croydon as safe as it can be.

I lead an extremely professional and committed workforce who look after your neighbourhood. They carry out regular drop-in surgeries at key locations on all wards and we also have contact

points, details of which are on our website. Please come and meet your officers and let us know what it is you want your police to concentrate on. We are happy to attend community events that you are planning; just contact

your local team. The Website is www.met.police.uk/contact-us, you can also follow us on Twitter - @MPSCroydon



Trading Standards Update Trish Burls - Principal Officer, Trading Standards

Two of the latest fraud alerts from Croydon Trading Standards.

We thought it might be useful for you to read about a couple of the latest rogue trading threats - forewarned is forearmed!

The problem: The Energy Saving Scam: the end of the green deal has co-incided with a rise in the number of referrals regarding energy related scams, many of which relate to cold/nuisance telephone calls. Callers often offer an energy saving device, which will allegedly lead to huge savings in energy bills. This results in a resident revealing their bank details over the phone and receiving a plug in electronic device which in some circumstances has proven to be unsafe.

The advice: If a device has been received consumers should not use it as it poses a potential fire risk. Consumers should never give out any personal financial information over the telephone to unknown callers.

The problem: Criminals selling items on social media: We've seen a rise in a variety of products being made available through a number of sites - from Facebook to Gumtree. Items include products that turn out to be fake, or even cars where the mileage has been reduced in order to increase value.

The advice: Why would you buy something from an unverified source simply because it may be cheaper than from an established retailer? Carry out exactly the same checks that you would if it was a high street retailer and remember - if it seems too good to be true it probably is!

To report an issue contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

To speak to Trading standards call 03454 405060

Advertise Here

Why not advertise your business in our next newsletter?
We have a readership of circa 20,000 across the borough of Croydon and our rates are very reasonable.
For more information please contact nhw@cbnwa.com

Your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator's details:

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