



Being mindful of fuel security

During these uncertain times, it is more important than ever to take steps to mitigate risk of fuel theft from properties. Whether it is your vehicle or your heating oil tank, or fuel kept in your garage or garden shed for petrol-powered garden tools – all fuel is at potential risk of theft.

Taking some simple steps to ensure your property is less of a target is always a good idea, to specifically protect property from fuel theft

- Doors are always locked on your car(s), which usually locks fuel tank doors, too.
- If your vehicle fuel door doesn't automatically lock, consider purchasing a lockable fuel-filler cap.
- Keep petrol/fuel containers stored safely and out of sight in locked sheds or garages.
- Heating oil tanks can have padlocks affixed to them. Purchase a good quality lock, that will withstand being out in the weather.
- Have motion sensor lighting around the perimeter of your property, especially to light areas around sheds. Make sure any lighting shines downward to show the areas that you want to protect.
- Consider CCTV for areas around sheds, vehicles and heating oil tanks. Ensure cameras are placed such that they cannot be tampered with and are fit for recording in dark. Test cameras in low light/dark conditions to ensure you are able to capture good imagery including faces in the event you have a suspicious person on your property. If you have any type of CCTV, ensure you have signage that is visible and clearly states you have CCTV in use.

Watch for suspicious activity

Theft doesn't always happen the first time an individual happens upon your property, keep an eye out for suspicious activity and individuals.

Dropped cigarette butts, food packages, footprints, disturbed plants could all indicate someone loitering around your property when you weren't aware.

If your dog, or a neighbour's dog barks or is anxious, it is worth checking – safely – for any disturbance outside your property.

If you see individuals that you don't recognise loitering around your area, make a note and advise your neighbours of same. You can report to 101 or Crimestoppers (0800 555111) with information on suspicious individuals.

If you witness an illegal activity happening ALWAYS ring 999. Never put yourself in harm's way.