



Further Incidents Of Power Tools Stolen From Vans - Barnstaple

North Devon has seen a recent increase in breaks to motor vehicles, specifically power tools from work vans. Before Christmas, we had crimes reported in Barnstaple, Bideford, Torrington, Ilfracombe, South Molton and Okehampton. Recently two incidents have occurred in the evening of Wednesday 9th January in Bideford (CR/002878/19 at Sentry Corner and CR/002879/19 at Churchill Road). A further two were reported in Barnstaple having occurred overnight on the same date (CR/003033/19 at Park Avenue and CR/002975/19 at Martin Road), where thieves have targeted Ford Transit vans and again, power tools were taken.

Any suspicious behaviour particularly around work vans needs to be reported to the Police by calling 101. If anyone has any information relating to anyone responsible for these crimes please do not hesitate to contact Devon and Cornwall Police quoting EN/018176/18. Alternatively you can email us with information on 101@dc.police.uk. Call 999 immediately if you see a crime in progress or any suspicious activity around trade vans. Note registration numbers of vehicles and descriptions of those involved. Information can also be passed anonymously to the independent charity Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111 or reporting online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

In order to reduce the risk of further people becoming victims we are asking for people to be vigilant, ensure vehicles are locked and secure and to remove power tools and items from the vehicle overnight. Police have examined investigative opportunity and collated any evidence available on each crime reported. We continue to work hard to locate those responsible, however Police have limited resources and cannot be everywhere at all times. If members of the public leave valuable items in their vehicles, they are likely to be targeted. Offenders know what to look for. People think that it won't happen to them but it is happening and precautions need to be taken or they are risking losing their ability to work for a period of time. Please help us to ensure that you do not become a victim of this crime by taking as many of the following actions as possible:

Park in a well-lit area in clear view of your property and any CCTV cameras. If possible reverse park against a wall or fence so rear doors are inaccessible. If possible park to protect side doors too.

Unload as many tools as you can from the van. It may seem like a chore but it's better than not being able to work tomorrow!

Upgrade the security on your van and fit an independent alarm. Don't rely on the factory fitted alarm. Select one accredited by '[Thatcham](#)' and always use it. Or contact your local dealership for advice and information on the latest security upgrades available.

Fit additional locks on your van doors as some manufacturer's locks can be picked, which will also disable the alarm.

There have been a number of Ford Transit vans entered so we are working with Ford who are offering free security upgrades to Ford Transit and Tourneo customers who have vans built between 28/03/12 and 1/07/17. You can check your eligibility by phoning your local Ford Dealership and giving them your Vehicle registration.

A tool marking day will be held at RGB Bideford, Unit 3-4 Caddsdow Industrial Park, Clovelly Road, Bideford, EX39 3DX on Monday 28th January from 0800 until 1400 hours. Members of the public can have their tools marked for free with forensic marking kits and advice will be given on how to reduce the chances of them becoming a victim of such a crime. A further marking day is likely to be held in Barnstaple in the near future.

Further information about property marking can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2SNsXzi>
Information about the marking kits Devon and Cornwall Police will be using at the tool marking day can be found here: <https://www.selectadna.co.uk/>

Attachments

[Tool Marking Event 28 1 19 RGB.pdf](#) - 402.4 KB

Message Sent By

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