

Autumn Nights Safety Advice 2023

Autumn Nights

Autumn is the season of chestnuts and Halloween, but it is also the time of the year when it is dark earlier and many people feel vulnerable. The Metropolitan Police see a rise in crime levels when the days become darker earlier. As a result, the Metropolitan Police created the Autumn Nights Campaign to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour and associated criminality directly.

Examples of antisocial behaviour include:

Drinking alcohol or using drugs in public places or at entrances to homes.

Causing Harassment, alarm and distress.

Unacceptable levels of noise.

Criminal damage, vandalism, or graffiti.

Intimidating behaviour by groups of people such as swearing, fighting, and shouting.

During this period, police plan to target the most dangerous offenders, maximise diversion opportunities and increase police visibility through targeted patrols. All these plans have the intention of reducing all crime within London and making the shorter days as safe as possible.

In addition, the Metropolitan Police use the Autumn Nights programme hand in hand with other Operations such as Operation Sceptre. Operation Sceptre is a plan to tackle knife crime directly through weapons sweeps, targeting repeat offenders and intelligence-led information.

These Initiatives and Operations are reliant on intelligence being fed directly to the police. Below is a link on personal safety which we urge everybody to read to best prepare yourself and to take a proactive approach. Also, included are links to the police website where intelligence and information can be passed regarding Knife and Offensive Weapons and Anti-Social Behaviour. In addition, you can always speak to your local BCRP (Business Crime Reduction Partnership) officer and report valuable intelligence.

Keeping your Business Safe:

Where possible, during closing hours aim for more than one member of staff to be present.

Move all High-Value items away from the display overnight.

Keep an Incident Log to locate vulnerable areas in your business and have improvements made to make them more secure. Close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you are only going out for a few minutes.

Lock all doors if they are not in use.

Ensure your CCTV provides facial recognition and good-quality images. 24-hour digital CCTV is recommended.

Store all wheelie bins as these can be climbed on to gain access to the building.

Make your premises well-lit in and around the vicinity, even when closed.

Make sure your keys are not left on the premises and that only designated staff have access to the keys.

In case of emergency, make sure there is a list of who can be contacted if they are not on site.

Remove all potential blockages to both CCTV and in-person view (i.e. Overgrown bushes and trees).

Have a fully operational Alarm System.

Keep stockrooms locked and items out of sight.

A tidy and maintained exterior is a deterrent for graffiti. Graffiti increases your business's chances of being targeted by criminals so if graffiti appears on a nearby wall or structure, call the council and make them aware.

Rules and Regulations on Fireworks:

In recent years there has been an increase in fireworks discharged in and around business premises and it is important to be aware of the rules surrounding them. If a firework is discharged on your premises, please consider reporting this to the police as this constitutes a criminal offence.

- You must be over 18 to buy fireworks.
- It is illegal to possess fireworks in a public place if you're under 18.

- It is an offence to throw or let off a firework in a street or public place, if you witness this, please report it to the Police by dialling 999 in an emergency and 101 in non-emergencies.
- If you let off fireworks between 23:00 and 07:00hrs, you will be breaking the law (except on Bonfire Night when it extends to midnight).
- Go to a publicly organised fireworks display and enjoy the spectacle without the safety concerns of organising your own event.

How to Deter a Street Robbery

- You are less likely to be targeted if you appear confident in your surroundings and your end location.
- Plan your route beforehand, particularly if you are going somewhere you have not been before. Whenever possible, walk on busy, well-lit streets, walkways and paths which are more likely to be covered by CCTV.
- Keep your mobile phone and valuables out of sight. If you are using your phone, it is more likely to be snatched from your hand, keep aware of your surroundings, and keep the police initiative of 'Look Up and Look Out' in mind.
- Keep belongings secure and put them away when at a venue (i.e.. bar, restaurant, pub, café). Leaving items out and on display makes you more likely to become a victim of snatching.

Personal Safety Apps – Links

Railway Guardian App –

The free Railway Guardian app is an all-in-one safety app from the British Transport Police. The app allows you to report crimes or concerns on the rail network, share your journeys with trusted contacts, and get access to news, guides, or support.

[Railway Guardian App | National Rail](#)

WalkSafe

WalkSafe was founded in 2020 with a concept to give users as much information about their surroundings as possible. Now, with their growing team and advisors, their products, offering and mission have developed, and they work with one goal in mind:

[Home - WalkSafe](#)

Metropolitan Police Links

Link to Metropolitan Police advice regarding personal safety

[Personal safety: how to stay safe | Metropolitan Police](#)

Link to report Anti-Social Behaviour

[Report antisocial behaviour | Metropolitan Police](#)

Link to Report a Crime

[Report a crime | Metropolitan Police](#)