

Safety Tips from the Emergency Services

You should consider safety throughout the year - but there are times of the year when risk may be greater. The Emergency Services have provided the following advice.

January

Fire Service advice:

Child seats - When travelling in a vehicle, children need to use the correct car seat until they reach 135 centimetres tall or age 12. The type of car seat your child needs depends on their weight, a rear-facing car seat in the front passenger seat can be used as long as the seat's airbag has been deactivated.

Police advice:

New gadgets for Christmas? Mark phones / iPads etc with a DNA solution (**Secured by Design** product) or write your postcode and property number with an ultraviolet (UV) pen and register on www.immobilise.com. This makes them identifiable and traceable.

Ambulance advice:

Completely defrost windows of vehicle prior to driving and drive to the road conditions, avoiding unnecessary incidents.

February

Fire Service advice: If a pan catches fire, don't take any risks, turn the heat off if it's safe to, and NEVER throw water over it. **Get Out, Stay Out, Call 999**

Police advice:

Avoid wearing gold chains or necklaces over the top of clothing. Thieves can snatch this from around your neck and make a quick getaway. Carry bags securely and make sure any fasteners or zips are closed and facing in towards your body.

Ambulance advice:

Is your vehicle prepared? Check your car, keep your battery fully charged, make sure wipers and lights are in good working order, add anti-freeze to the radiator and winter additive to the windscreen washer bottles, check that tyres have plenty of tread depth and are maintained at the correct pressure.

March

Fire Service advice:

Regularly check smoke detectors and have a fire escape route planned and practiced.

Police advice:

Ensure all outside sheds and store cupboards are securely locked when not in use. Chain cycles to mowers, ladders and tools inside the shed or get the home owner to consider investment in the Secured by Design range of products.

Ambulance advice:

Make sure everyone knows when and how to make an emergency call, remembering to provide the exact address and incident details.



WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE



April

Fire Service advice:

Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless, tasteless, poisonous gas. Action to take if experience symptoms: Get fresh air immediately, open doors and windows, turn off gas appliances and leave the house. See your doctor immediately or go to hospital.

Police advice:

Be considerate of neighbours and people in your community, report incidents of ASB to the police or landlord. ASB is treated seriously by the police and other partners, with action taken if necessary.

Ambulance advice:

First aid tips can be viewed at [Accidents and First Aid](#)

May

Fire Service advice:

Be careful when using electrical items: never trail cables across stairways, exit routes or under carpets. Always unplug items after use e.g. hair appliances and irons.

Police advice:

Careless comments on social media sites such as 'away for half term' can make your property vulnerable. Always lock doors and windows even when you are at home.

Ambulance advice:

Cycling etiquette: Don't weave in and out of traffic or change direction suddenly without signalling, use cycle routes, advanced stop lines, cycle boxes and toucan crossings unless it's unsafe to do so at the time. Give pedestrians priority at all times. Some may be partially sighted or deaf and may not be aware of your presence.

June

Fire Service advice:

Don't leave camp fires or barbecues unattended and extinguish them properly.

Police advice:

An offensive weapon is any object that has been made or adapted to cause injury. If a person is found guilty at court of carrying an offensive weapon they could face imprisonment, a fine or both. If you have concerns about someone carrying a weapon you can report it to the police on **101** or anonymously to **Crimestoppers: 0800 555111**

Ambulance advice:

Some young people will feel pressurised to drink alcohol, smoke or take drugs. For anyone in this position or those close to them there is help, advice and support available.

July

Fire Service advice: Keep your wits about you when walking/cycling/running. Avoid using personal entertainment devices as you need to hear what and who's around you.

Police advice: Keep safe online by taking simple precautions; use a nickname instead of real name, don't give personal details, keep passwords to yourself and think about photos you are sharing.

Ambulance advice: Lakes, rivers, quarries and canals can look very inviting, but they can also be very dangerous. Use the facilities at a leisure centre to have safe fun in the water.



WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE



August

Fire Service advice:

Never use a mobile phone whilst driving. Switch your mobile phone off before you start driving or put on silent so it is less likely to distract you.

Police advice:

People shouting, swearing or playing loud music could be perceived as anti social behaviour (ASB) and cause distress to neighbours and people in the community. Where necessary the police and council will take action against the culprits. If you or someone you know is suffering from ASB it is important to report it so that a solution can be found.

Ambulance advice:

Take care in the sun, use factor 30+ sunscreen, keep hydrated and avoid the sunshine between 11 am and 3pm.

September

Fire Service advice:

BBQs - make sure your barbecue is in good working order, on a flat site, well away from a shed, trees or shrubs. Keep children, garden games and pets well away from the cooking area and never leave the barbecue unattended.

Police advice:

Remove all items from show in an unattended vehicle and take all personal items with you e.g. iPod, mobile phone etc (don't leave in the glove box or boot).

Ambulance advice:

If you have called for the emergency services put the house lights on, and if safe to do so, have someone outside to identify the address.

October

Fire Service advice: Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets, extinguish before leaving the room or going to sleep and never leave unattended

Police advice: Trick or treat at Halloween, explain to children to stay together, not to enter anyone's property and avoid houses with 'No Trick or Treat' cards displayed.

Ambulance advice:

First aid tips can be viewed at **Accidents and First Aid**

November

Fire Service and Ambulance advice:

Bonfire night : Attend an organised firework display, only buy fireworks from a legitimate retailer, check the fireworks you buy are suitable for the size of garden and conform to the British Standard 7114. Allow only one adult to be responsible, have a bucket of water ready, have eye protection and gloves if lighting fireworks. Light fireworks at arm's length with a taper, stand well back and keep others back too.

Police advice:

Are you or someone you know being targeted because of gender, race, religion, disability or sexual orientation? If so it is important to report it. The report can be to third party reporting centres, the police, **Crimestoppers: 0800 555111** or online www.report-it.org.uk



WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE



December

Fire Service advice:

Check your Christmas tree lights conform to the British Standard and are in good working order. Always switch off and unplug Christmas lights before you go to bed or go out.

Police advice:

Keep Christmas presents from view, thieves may target the gifts under your tree. Electronic gifts for Christmas? Dispose of packaging carefully so that thieves don't target your home for the goods.

Ambulance advice:

Never drink and drive, don't offer anyone who is driving an alcoholic drink. If you are planning to go out for a drink, the best option is to order a taxi (in advance), use public transport or get a family member or friend to pick you up.

For further information and other safety advice visit the following websites:

West Midlands Police

West Midlands Fire Service

West Midlands Ambulance



WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE

