



# Absafe Community Safety Bulletin

This Issue December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016

## Absafe Bulletin



### KEEP YOUR CAR SAFE THIS WINTER

Chilly weather can have a huge impact on your car, and can even worsen any underlying mechanical problems. Here at Absafe, we want your car journeys over the festive season to be as safe as possible, so our friends at the RAC have provided some handy hints to avoid breakdowns and some top advice for keeping you safe on the road.

### REMEMBER YOUR 'FORCES'

Remember this acronym and you'll go a long way to ensuring your car is ready for any drive in wintry conditions:

**F** is for **FUEL** - Ensure you have enough fuel for your journey. Cars use more fuel in heavy traffic and start/stop conditions which can be regular occurrences, especially in wintry weather

**O** is for **OIL** - To avoid engine damage and a potential breakdown, remember to check your oil level and top up when necessary

**R** is for **RUBBER** - Your tyres can tell you a lot about how your car is performing. If they aren't wearing evenly, then tyre pressures may be mismatched or there could be a fault with the steering

Check that all four tyres have at least 3mm of tread and are inflated to the correct pressure - this is vital to maintaining good grip in wet and even icy conditions

Also take a look at your wiper blades to ensure they're clearing the screen effectively and that the rubber has not perished

**C** is for **COOLANT** - Make sure it's topped up to your vehicle manufacturer's recommended levels and it contains the right amount of anti-freeze

**E** is for **ELECTRICS** - Check all of your lights are working correctly including your indicators, brake lights and fog lights - and replace any faulty bulbs or blown fuses

**S** is for **SCREENWASH** - Top-up your windscreen washer fluid by using a good quality screenwash which is effective down to cold temperatures. Remember that colder conditions demand a more concentrated solution.



### SPONGY BRAKES

The brakes are the most important safety feature of any car, so it's important to keep an eye on wear rates - especially when grip could be at its lowest in winter.

Unusual grumbling noises, a car pulling to one side or a 'long' spongy brake pedal could point towards a problem with the braking system; get things checked out by a qualified mechanic if you're not sure.

**INTERMITTENT KNOCKING SOUND**

An intermittent knocking or droning sound - especially when going round corners - could indicate a worn wheel bearing.

If left unchecked this could eventually cause expensive damage to the hub assembly and suspension.

**ACCUMULATING CONDENSATION**

Constant freezing, thawing and condensation can see water accumulate where rain doesn't during the winter. If your car's seals are past their best and water gets into the electrics, it could manifest itself in a number of ways: engine misfires, faulty electric windows or dud door locks can all be signs of a leak.



**STUCK OUTSIDE?**

We take getting into our car for granted, but if your vehicle won't open using the remote central locking fob in winter, you'll certainly be able diagnose the problem.

Make sure you replace the battery regularly if (as many modern cars do) your car doesn't charge the key through the ignition.

If that still doesn't get you inside, it could be the receiver. Best use the key lock as a backup.

**ENGINE WON'T TURN OVER**

Freezing temperatures can take their toll on mechanicals and electronics.

If your vehicle's engine won't turn over, you could have a flat battery or a stuck starter motor.

While this isn't so much a preventative measure it will at least give you a clear indication of what the potential fault is so you can assess what to do next.

Look to charge your car battery or receive a jump-start from a healthy car.

If it happens again, your battery could be reaching the end of its life or it's possible your alternator might not be charging the battery properly, too.

**WHAT'S ON AT ABSAFE?**

**ABSAFE AGM**

Absafe held its annual general meeting this week to discuss plans, proposals and prospects for the future. Led by Board Chairman Les Linklater, our Board of Trustees reviewed Absafe's progress during the last twelve months and how the team plans to further develop the business.

The upcoming year will be an exciting period, with new business prospects, community events and school visits confirmed for 2017. We can't wait!

**EMMA PREPARES FOR BABY BELLU'S ARRIVAL**

Absafe's CEO Emma is now on maternity leave and is gearing up for baby number three.

Baby Bellu is due on 22 January, so Emma will be spending the festive season with her feet up and mince pies within easy reach. Our Education Manager Malcolm will be holding the fort while Emma is away, with Emma scheduled to return to the business in September.

Emma is already mum to two boys, with Emma expecting another boy ensuring she's well and truly outnumbered.

Best of luck Emma, we'll miss you!



**We'll see you all in 2017 – Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year**

**Noteworthy Property Incidents (Homes, Gardens & Vehicles):**

Police Scotland has provided the following list of incidents which have occurred in your area this week as a snapshot of the current crime trends. All incidents are not recorded below, either for legal reasons or where there are issues of sensitivity. The statistics below should not be seen as an accurate reflection of all crime in your area but as a way of raising your awareness to crime in general. This in turn should allow you to take the appropriate safety/security steps to prevent yourself from being a victim of crime.

<b>NORTH</b>				
<b>TIME PERIOD</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>CRIME TYPE</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>	
<b>BUCKSBURN</b>				
<b>BRIDGE OF DON</b>				
<b>NORTHFIELD</b>				
12/12/16	13/12/16	Provost Rust Drive	Theft by HB	Forced entry to shed and stole from within
13/12/16	14/12/16	Whin Park Road	Theft by HB	Forced entry to dwelling and stole from within
<b>MASTRICK</b>				
09/12/16	10/12/16	Ashgrove Gardens North	Theft by HB	Forced entry to dwelling and stole car keys, then stole car
10/12/16	10/12/16	Lilac Place	Theft of vehicle	Stole complainer's motor car
11/12/16	11/12/16	Mastrick Drive	Theft by HB	Forced entry to shed and stole from within
<b>TILLYDRONE</b>				
08/12/16	09/12/16	Grandholm Street	Theft from a motor vehicle	Stole number plates from vehicle
<b>KITTYBREWSTER</b>				
15/12/16	15/12/16	Froghall Terrace	Theft from a motor vehicle	Stole jacket from unsecure van
<b>SEATON</b>				
14/12/16	15/12/16	Castle Terrace	HBWI	Forced entry to premises with intent to steal
<b>SOUTH</b>				
<b>CITY CENTRE</b>				
<b>NIGG</b>				
<b>TORRY</b>				

09/12/16	12/12/16	Sinclair Road	Theft from a motor vehicle	Reached into unsecure vehicle and stole from within
<b>HAZLEHEAD</b>				
11/12/16	11/12/16	Dalmunzie Road, Bielside	Theft from motor vehicles	Entered two unsecure vehicles and stole from within
13/12/16	13/12/16	Westray Road	Attempted OLPWI	Attempted to force entry to vehicle with intent to steal
<b>ROSEMOUNT</b>				
10/12/16	11/12/16	Edgehill Road	Theft	Entered unsecure vehicle and stole from within
<b>WEST END</b>				
09/12/16	09/12/16	Caledonian Place	Theft	Entered unsecure dwelling and stole from within
09/12/16	10/12/16	Desswood Place	In building with intent to steal	Entered unsecure dwelling with intent to stole from within
11/12/16	14/12/16	Bank Street	Theft by OLP	Forced entry to car and stole from within

**Key:** HB - House Breaking

OLP - Open Lockfast Place

OLPWI - Open Lockfast Place with Intent

HBWI - House Breaking with Intent

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