



Absafe Community Safety Bulletin

This Issue February 9th 2017

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PHONE CHARGER SAFETY

You may have seen recent images of a phone charger that was plugged in underneath a child's pillow overnight. The image (see below) shows a burned out wire, pillow and sheets, luckily for this family, no one was hurt.

It can be the case that phone chargers catch fire when left in charged overnight, but also if the chargers or cables are counterfeit. Here at Absafe, we want to provide you with the most up to date advice, so we've included some top advice from safety consumers specialists Which? to help you identify genuine goods.



WHAT MAKES YOUR CHARGER GENUINE?

A genuine iPhone charger comprises two products - a power adapter for the wall, plus a USB cable to connect it to your phone - and cost around £19 from the official Apple Store. Android chargers vary but should be marked with the logo of the phone company.

ARE THERE A LOT OF FAKES BEING SOLD ONLINE?

In an experiment by the Chartered Trading Standards Institute, they found 99% of chargers sold online failed a basic safety test.

Out of 400 counterfeit Apple chargers purchased from online suppliers around the world, 397 failed a basic safety test, according to the safety campaigners.

Discount cables can be bought for as little as 1p on auction sites such as eBay.

Common problems with fakes included counterfeit plugs, non-sleeved plugs where the metal pins are exposed, live parts, two pin plugs attached and only basic insulation.

I've found a much cheaper charger - should I take the risk and buy it?

If your charger is not from Apple, an Android company, or a trusted third party, you could risk damage, injury and even death.

The London Fire Brigade released a report warning of the dangers of counterfeit Apple iPhone chargers, explaining how fake chargers have the potential to put lives at risk.

This followed an investigation where the LFB tested some widely available fake chargers to unveil any faults that could cause anything from damage to the

charger or your phone, through to electrocution, burns or even house fires.

HOW DO I SPOT A FAKE CHARGER?

Here are a few tell-tale signs to look out for:

SAFETY MARK: This should sit between the two bottom pins on the underside of the charger. The colour of the writing on the base of the plug may also be dark grey on counterfeits, while on real Apple products it will be light grey. Look out for even more obvious signs too - such as the word "safety" being misspelt. Check for the CE safety marking, though be aware that this can easily be forged, and look for the manufacturer's brand name or logo, model and batch number.

WEIGHT: Genuine chargers tend to weigh more than their fake counterparts, due to the higher number of components. If you have access to some scales, the wall adapter part of the charger should weigh at least 40g - that's a little more than the weight of four pound coins.

USB SOCKET: On dodgy chargers this may be upside down when compared to a genuine iPhone charger. Check which way the USB socket is positioned when the plug is on its back.

THE FINISH: The pins on a real charger will have a matt finish, and be a consistent colour and finish as well as having a uniform square appearance. Look out for a shiny or gloss finish, plus pins that are irregular in size or shape.

INSTRUCTIONS: Legitimate chargers should come with instructions including basic electrical safety advice and a guide on how to use the charger safely.

WHAT'S ON AT ABSAFE?

There's still time to reserve your spot at the Absafe Car Boot Sale, taking place on Saturday 18 February from 9am - 1pm. Spaces cost £10. Contact Victoria on Victoria@absafe.org.uk

PUTTING THE FUN INTO FUNDRAISING

Every week, we'll be highlighting case studies from our back catalogue - take a look at how Forehill Primary School helped fundraise for us last year...

You don't need to be a superhero to fundraise for Absafe, but it definitely helps to be super.

This was the case with three fantastic junior fundraisers from Forehill Primary School, who

arranged their own fundraising campaign involving the whole school.

Absafe was selected as one of two charity beneficiaries, with Mae Anderson, Beth Mutch and Cerys Milne organising a 'dress as you please' and 'dress as a superhero' day before the October break.

The primary five and six girls also held a 'Guess the Teddy's Birthday' and a 'Guess the Number of Chocolates in the jar' contest - all arranged on their own, with tickets sold throughout the school.

In a special end of term assembly on the last day of term, the girls picked the best dressed pupils to take part in a catwalk show - where mini superheroes strutted their stuff in front of fellow students and teachers.

Absafe was presented with their half of the funds raised, which came to £141.10 for each charity.

Beth, aged 9, said: "We enjoyed working together to raise lots of money and had so much fun doing it. We asked our headteacher if we could do this and he helped us a bit, but we did most of the work ourselves. My favourite part was picking out the best dressed superheroes, everyone looked ace. I would like to do more fundraising and Absafe is a great charity to help out."



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.

NORTH				
TIME PERIOD	LOCATION	CRIME TYPE	INFORMATION	
BUCKSBURN				
BRIDGE OF DON				
NORTHFIELD				
29/01/2017	29/01/2017	Oldtown Place	HB w.i. to steal	Forced door by unknown means and entered with intent to steal
MASTRICK				
TILLYDRONE				
30/01/2017	31/01/2017	Donside Court	HB w.i. to steal, domestic property, non-dwelling	Forced open door within intent to steal from within
KITTYBREWSTER				
13/01/2017	28/01/2017	Bedford Road	Theft by HB	Gained entry to flat and stole from within
28/01/2017	29/01/2017	Great Northern Road	Theft	Unavailable
SEATON				
28/01/2017	28/01/2017	St Ninians Court	Theft from a motor vehicle	Broke into vehicle and stole
SOUTH				
CITY CENTRE				
27/01/2017	27/01/2017	Huntly Street	Theft	Entered unlocked premises and stole
NIGG				
TORRY				
28/01/2017	28/01/2017	Balnagask Circle	Theft of vehicle and contents including taking and driving away	Stole car and contents
HAZLEHEAD				
27/01/2017	27/01/2017	Hillview Crescent,	In building	Be within curtilage of building

		Cults	with intent to steal	where it may be inferred that you were there for the purposes of committing crime
27/01/2017	27/01/2017	Bielside x 2	Theft of vehicle and contents including taking and driving away	Stole car and contents
ROSEMOUNT				
WEST END				
31/01/2017	31/01/2017	Alford Place	Theft from a motor vehicle	Entered unsecure vehicle and stole
01/02/2017	02/02/2017	Devanha Terrace	Theft of vehicle & contents incl taking + driving away	Stole unattended motor vehicle

Key: HB - House Breaking

OLP - Open Lockfast Place

OLPWI - Open Lockfast Place with Intent

HBWI - House Breaking with Intent

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