

This is a message from Northamptonshire West Police to NHW members in Cogenhoe and surrounding areas...

Please be aware that there have been three shed/out-building break-ins in Cogenhoe in the last day.

In each case the property was locked and items were taken from within.

There are some positive things you can do to improve security and make life much more difficult for the thief...

- * Darkness is the perfect cover for burglars - the effective and economic answer is to install outside lighting, which comes on only when people are present.

- * Most sheds are secured with a padlock and hasp or staple. This arrangement is fine but make sure the hasp is well secured to the door and frame by using bolts which completely pass through the timber and are secured on the inside using a large washer and bolt

- * Choose a good padlock, which has a hardened steel shackle (the part which opens and passes through the hasp). The shorter the shackle the better because it prevents the jaws of bolt croppers being able to be placed around it

- * Lock or permanently fix windows shut and cover them, perhaps with an old curtain so no-one can see what is kept inside

- * Install a shed or garage alarm and place a sticker in the window or on the door to advertise the fact.

Thank you.

Call the Northamptonshire Police switchboard on 08453 700700 or 999 in an emergency. Alternatively call Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

If you do not want to receive future Community Messages please email rushden@crime-prevention.co.uk if you live in North Northants or daventry@crime-prevention.co.uk if you live in West Northants. If you are not sure which area to email please click maps here to find which area you live in- <http://www.northants.police.uk/sct/>

Northamptonshire Community Messaging