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Community Notice
Non-Emergency contact number 101 – Emergency 999

Chichester District

Increase in Lead Theft

Most buildings will have some form of lead roof tiles or flashing on or around the roof area and, although it may prove difficult to gain access to the roof, we all know that thieves are determined in their line of work. The problem tends to be that adequate protection measures may be costly and, in certain circumstances, it seems little that can be done to protect some properties such as churches located in remote areas. Where lead has been stolen from a roof the cost of replacing the materials is one issue, however, as the roof is no longer weatherproof, there will inevitably be resultant water damage to the interior of the building which may lead to disruption to the occupier's activities.

What can be done to improve security?

- Installation of CCTV covering the building with adequate monitoring and recording.
- Ensure gates are locked and the premises are secure.
- Restrict any easy access to the roof by removing water butts, waste bins and tall trees located near to the building.
- Keep ladders stored in a locked building, shed or compound.
- Consider installation of security lighting.
- Remove any means of transporting stolen material, such as wheelbarrows, to a secure place.
- Apply anti-climb paint to drainpipes and roof guttering to restrict access to the roof.
- Consider painting the lead with tar making removal difficult.
- Consider installing intruder alarm protection to external roof areas.
- Carry out regular checks of roofs and gulleys.
- Encourage members of the local community to keep a vigilant eye on the building and to report any suspicious activity.

Finally, if you are the victim of this type of crime, you may wish to consider replacing the lead with a non lead substitute when replacement is being effected. For more information, you can contact your local officer www.sussex.police.uk

Lisa Shadbolt
PCSO 27388

Chichester Police Station
Neighbourhood Policing Team
Telephone: 101
www.facebook.com/chipolice
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If you see anything suspicious please report it immediately.

It might be the vital piece of information we need! Sussex Police gratefully receive information on all suspicious activity, suspicious persons and Anti-Social Behaviour, occurring in your area. We thank you for your vigilance and together, in partnership, we will effectively reduce and detect crime.