

December 2022

Twelve Days to a safer Christmas

Advice and tips on making your Christmas safer

Day 1

Safe Christmas Shopping

Park in a well lit area

Avoid shopping alone — especially at night

Make sure all your shopping is in the boot or covered up

Be aware of who is around you

Remember where you parked

Shield your PIN and don't carry large amounts of cash



Day 2

Burglary

Light up — use motion sensors or timers

Lock up — be secure — doors & windows

Don't advertise what's in your house via discarded packaging

Keep your valuables out of sight

Store your car keys safely

Never reveal you will be away from home on social media

**Don't let thieves
know you're out**



If you have any information about possible organised crime, victims of such crime or vulnerable people subject of exploitation, please inform **Essex Police** or **CrimeStoppers** on **0800 555111**

Keep up to date and
do **even more** Online **at** essex.police.uk

December 2022



COUNTERFEIT



DON'T BUY INTO
ORGANIZED CRIME

Day 4

Online Shopping

Research the seller—can you trust them?
Enticing links in emails and texts - pro-

ceed with caution

To good to be true—or offers designed to
fool you?

Use a credit card to pay—it's a safer way

Need to report:

actionfraud.police.uk

Day 3

Counterfeit Goods

If the price seems too good to be true it
is probably counterfeit

Buying goods from counterfeit sites puts
you at risk of credit card fraud and
identity theft

To report a complaint, contact Citizens
Advice Consumer Helpline
on 0808 223 1133

ActionFraud

Report Fraud & Internet Crime

actionfraud.police.uk



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Day 5

Loan Sharks

Loan sharks exploit the cost of living crisis by preying on peoples financial worries —don't be a victim
Loan sharks may seem friendly at first but they often resort to intimidation, threats or violence
If you or someone you know is a victim, call the Illegal Money Lending Team on 0300 555 222



**Stop Loan Sharks
helpline is open 24/7
Get advice and support**

0300 555 2222

STOPLOANSHARKS
Intervention . Support . Education

Day 6

Romance Scams

Online dating — don't let your heart rule your head
If their profile is too good to be true — it probably is
Never allow them access to your bank account or copies of your personal documents
Never send money to someone you've never met

SWIPE LEFT ON ROMANCE FRAUD

Over £66m was lost to
romance fraud between
Aug 2019 and Aug 2020.

#LoveNotLies



ActionFraud
www.actionfraud.org.uk

TO STOP FRAUD



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IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999

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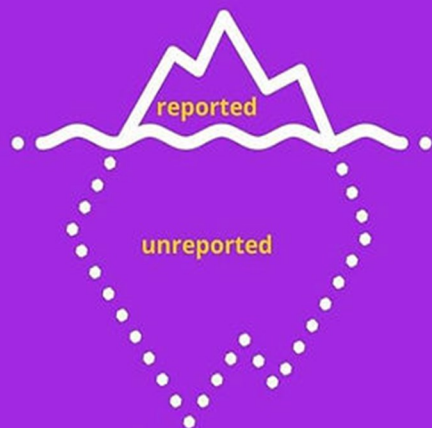
Day 7

Safer Nights Out Part 1

Drink Spiking

- Go to the bar with a friend or group
- Never leave your drink unattended
- Don't drink from other people's glasses
- Don't accept drinks from strangers
- Cover your drink
- Watch out for each other

UK Spiking incidents **iceberg**



www.spikeaware.co.uk

How to recognize a drink that's been

SPIKED

or tampered with

FOGGY
APPEARANCE



EXCESSIVE
BUBBLES



SINKING ICE



CHANGE IN
COLOUR



HOW TO HELP A FRIEND WHO YOU THINK HAS BEEN SPIKED

- Tell a bar manager, bouncer or member of staff
- Stay with them and keep talking to them
- Call an ambulance if their condition deteriorates
- Don't let them go home on their own
- Don't let them leave the venue with someone you don't know or trust
- Try and prevent them drinking more alcohol

Day 8

Safer Nights Out

Needle Spiking

Needle injection spiking involves attempting to inject a drug into a person. This is done for a number of reasons – For amusement/humiliation, to facilitate theft or rape/sexual assault. It is a crime and can result in a prison sentence of up to 10 years.

#SPIKEAWARE



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Day 9

Drink/Drug Driving

There is no excuse for driving a vehicle if you have been drinking or taking drugs

Do not drink or drug drive—
IT COSTS LIVES

Organise a designated driver, book a taxi or walk

Call 101 (non urgent)

999 (emergency)

**DRINK
DRIVING.**
**TOGETHER
WE CAN
STOP IT.**

➤ PREVENT ➤ PERSUADE ➤ POLICE

KNOW YOUR CAB



HACKNEY CARRIAGE

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE

Day 10

Taxi Safety

Where possible, try to pre-book your taxi and arrange to be picked up and dropped off in a safe place

Always sit in the rear of the taxi and never accept a lift from a stranger

Make a compliment, comment or complaint about your journey via your local council website



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Day 11

Child Online Safety

Have you bought your child a new device for Christmas?

Set and maintain parental controls

Maintain an open dialogue with your child about their online activity

Encourage their use of age appropriate sites

Be open and honest in your discussions around their digital activity

For advice go to:
internetmatters.org



internet
matters.org

Day 12

Device Security

Use your phones security features

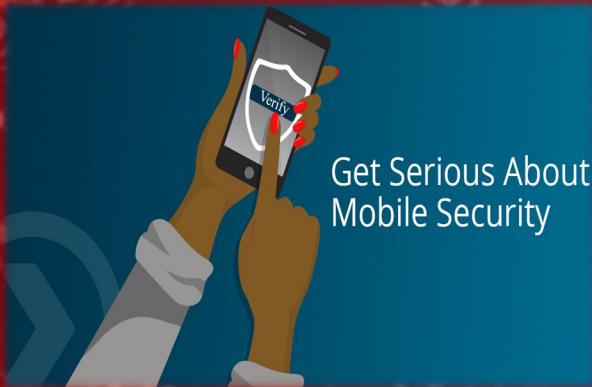
Know your phones IMEI number by dialling *#06# and keep it safe

Be aware of your surroundings

Never leave your phone unattended

Never confront a thief or risk your own safety for the sake of your phone—property can be replaced, you cant

Get Serious About
Mobile Security



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