

tiaa SECURITY FOCUS

HELPING TO PROTECT PEOPLE, PROPERTY AND ASSETS

Edition 11



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Welcome

TIAA's Security and Risk Management Service newsletter

Welcome to the Winter 2025 Edition of Security Focus!

As the days grow shorter and the festive season approaches, security challenges evolve. This issue highlights key winter crime trends, personal safety tips for lone workers, and essential security checks to keep your premises and people safe during the colder months. From rising theft statistics to practical advice on lighting, visibility, and lockdown readiness, we've compiled actionable insights to help you stay vigilant and prepared. Stay informed, stay secure—and have a safe and happy festive season!

Report Your Concerns and please don't be afraid to raise any security related concerns that you may have. You can report your concerns via your organisations incident reporting system and contact us for advice and support using these contact details.

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Winter Crime Trends

As daylight shortens and evenings grow darker, the risk of opportunistic theft increases—both around premises and vehicles. Winter presents specific risks in terms of reduced visibility, longer hours in darkness, and increased operational activity.

According to the latest data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), estimated theft incidents in England and Wales rose 22% in the year ending December 2024, reaching around 2.9 million.

Opportunistic Crime - The festive period sees increased site activity, more deliveries, and more movement of goods and people. These conditions provide cover for theft, burglary or unauthorised access. Be particularly vigilant in reception areas, loading zones, and parking lots.

Vehicle & External Site Security in Winter - Vehicles parked in darker, poorly-lit areas become easier targets. Staff using cars in the evenings or early mornings should keep keys secure, remove valuables, and park in well-lit, monitored locations.

References

[Personal theft up 22% in England and Wales, ONS says - BBC News](#)

Disclaimer:

The content of this document is intended to give general information only. Its contents should not, therefore, be regarded as constituting specific advice, and should not be relied on as such. No specific action should be taken without seeking appropriate professional advice.

Winter Personal Safety & Lone Working

Lone Working Risks During Darker Months - Winter brings extended hours of darkness, potential icy conditions, and quieter sites—factors that increase hazards for lone or isolated staff. A report by SoloProtect showed a 132% rise in physical attacks on lone workers over the last three years.

Buddy Systems, Check-Ins & Safe Routes - Encourage staff working later or traveling alone to use buddy systems or scheduled check-ins. Simple steps like letting someone know when they've arrived or departed can make a big difference.

Violence & Aggression in Healthcare Settings - The risk remains significant. According to the NHS England Staff Survey, 1 in 7 staff reported experiencing physical violence from patients, relatives or the public in 2024.

Personal Safety for Winter Shifts - Remind staff of practical precautions: use well-lit entrances and exits, avoid isolated parking or waiting spots, maintain visibility, and ensure communication devices are operational.

- Walk in pairs or groups after dark.
- Stick to well-lit routes; avoid shortcuts.
- Keep safety devices (alarms, phones) handy.
- Report suspicious activity immediately.
- Check in regularly with a colleague or supervisor.
- Carry a fully charged phone or lone working device.
- Review personal winter risk (ice, dark areas).
- Park in well-lit, secure areas.
- Lock your vehicle; do not leave valuables inside.
- Allow extra travel time for winter weather.

References

[132% Rise in Lone Worker Attacks: New Report](#)

[NHS England » Frontline NHS staff facing rise in physical violence](#)



Winter Security Refresher

Premises Security Checks - With colder weather and possible snow/ice conditions, door seals, locks, gates, and windows may degrade. Encourage checks of all external access points, ensuring they operate correctly.

Deliveries & Suspicious Packages - The winter period often means increased deliveries for supplies, gifts, seasonal items. Staff should remain alert to unusual or suspicious packages, unfamiliar delivery vehicles, or persons loitering.

Staff Awareness Training & Lockdown Readiness - Remind staff of lockdown protocols. Clear instructions on what triggers a lockdown, communication methods, staff response, and safe zones are key.

Lighting and Visibility - Given longer hours of darkness, external lighting becomes critical. Ensure car parks, pathways, building perimeters, and waiting areas are well-lit and checked for functioning lights or obscured sight-lines.

Homeworking – Organisations have the same health and safety responsibilities for homeworkers and the same liability for accident or injury as for any other workers. This means the organisation must provide Lone Workers with effective control measures and training to protect home alone workers.

References

[Lone working: Protect those working alone - HSE](#)

Have a safe and secure Festive Season from your Security Management Team at TIAA. Contact us for security related advice

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