

CCTV:

CCTV is a good deterrent, however it should only be considered as an addition to the existing security features and not as a replacement. Before investing in CCTV equipment, consider the following:

- What do I hope to achieve by using CCTV?
- How much am I willing to spend?
- Is there sufficient lighting where the cameras are operating or do I need to think about using cameras with low-light capability?
- What am I going to record the captured images on?
- How am I going to provide the police with any evidence I might capture?

The Oil Firing Technical Association for the petroleum industry, OFTEC, offers advice and guidance for those who use and store oil at their premises. There are certain rules and regulations that may apply to you and OFTEC can help clarify these. They can be reached at www.oftec.org or by calling **0845 6585 080**.

COUNTRY WATCH

Heating and diesel oil theft



Theft of heating and diesel oil has been a problem for many years and is often thought to be linked to the price of crude oil.

A rise in the price of fuel often leads to a rise in the cost of heating oil, making it an attractive proposition for thieves who now actively target fuel tanks at farms, transport depots and domestic properties.

Follow the advice in this leaflet and take action to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime.

Hampshire Constabulary – cutting crime in rural communities.

Call Hampshire Constabulary Country Watch and Hampshire Horsewatch on **101**.
In an emergency call **999**.
www.hampshire.police.uk



Heating oil theft crime prevention advice:

Siting your oil tank:

Where the tank is sited can have a significant effect on how hard a target it is in the eyes of the thief. If the tank is close to a road or path and out of sight then it is likely to be a far easier target than if it was in sight of the house with one or more windows overlooking it. It does need to be remembered that it should be within easy access for the oil supply company to refill it. Hiding the tank behind the garage, shed or some other type of building is fairly commonplace, although this can give the thief the advantage of not being seen.

Securing the oil tank:

Fences and walls can make it difficult for the thief to access the tank, however it must be remembered that the oil tanker driver will need access to the tank to refill it. A metal grill or cage with a lockable access point across the top of the wall or fence can help improve the security. The wall or fence should be as close to the tank as possible and as high as possible.

Oil level gauges:

Remote electronic oil level gauges are available, which will set off an audible alarm if the oil level in the tank suddenly drops or falls below quarter full. The alarm receiver can be placed in the house to warn the residents. There are also similar alarms that can notify the residents by text.

Control switches:

Consider turning off the control switches that regulate the flow of oil and isolate the electricity when the tank is not in use.

Padlocks:

A thief will usually come equipped to attack your tank so it is worth investing in some good quality locks. Closed-shackle padlocks are the best as they offer the most resistance as there is very little of the metal hoop (shackle) exposed for attack.

Security lights:

Security lighting can help make the tank a difficult target for the thief; however this is only really effective if the tank is overlooked. It is not always necessary to floodlight the area with powerful security lights as often a more subtle level of lighting is all that is needed. Low-energy “dusk-to-dawn” lighting positioned close to the tank often provides sufficient lighting to illuminate any suspicious activity.

Defensive planting:

Defensive planting is nature’s way of helping to reduce crime. Thieves will be reluctant to force their way through or over prickly vegetation. The smallest trace of blood or shred of ripped clothing could help police identify the offender. Defensive planting around the tank could provide an effective and decorative barrier.

