



NIFC COMMUNITY AWARENESS UPDATE



NIFC COMMUNITY AWARENESS UPDATE 8/24 (7 Aug 24)

(The Community Awareness Update provides general information to enable personnel to keep up-to-date with routine correspondence; it is not provided for mission-related items and does not replace the Emergency Messaging System.)

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW 'FAMILY' MEMBERS; THE COMMUNITY AWARENESS UPDATE IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH, HOPEFULLY, INFORMATIVE AND USEFUL INFORMATION.

CONTENT:

- **CIVIL DISORDER ACROSS THE UK.**
- **SPEED CAMERA MYTHS.**
- **POTHOLE.**
- **TOP SCAM CALLS PLAGUING THE UK.**
- **ARE MY APPS SPYING ON ME?**
- **STAY ALERT, STAY ALIVE.**
- **DRINK AND DRUG DRIVING SUMMER CAMPAIGNS.**

CIVIL DISORDER ACROSS THE UK:

BACKGROUND: There has been violent disorder in towns and cities since Tue 30 Jul 24, the day after three young girls were killed in Southport - false claims on social media followed that someone who had arrived in the UK illegally was to blame.

The recent and on-going riots across the UK have been classed as civil disorder after clashes between anti-immigration demonstrators and counter protesters. Several far-right groups have been at the riots or promoted them on social media; including the English Defence League (a far-right street movement created in 2009, notorious for violent protests and anti-Islam and anti-immigration stance) and Patriotic Alternative (a fascist group). The riots, involving hundreds of anti-immigration protesters, erupted in towns and cities after false information spread rapidly on social media that the suspect in the knife attack at a children's dance class in Southport was a radical Muslim migrant. Although factually corrected, protests by anti-immigration and anti-Muslim demonstrators continued, descending into violence, arson and looting. A 'perfect storm' scenario; with the situation, in the short-term, likely to become more entangled as, separately, thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators marches continue in protest to Israel's military operation in Gaza, through to underlying concerns at the Channel migrant situation, with over 17000 migrants having already crossed this year. The UK Government stated that the right to freedom of expression and the violent scenes over recent days were "two very different things", with the likelihood of new (temporary) emergency powers will be introduced.

In relation to community activities in your local area, Cambridgeshire Police, for example, are actively working to ensure the safety of dance classes and other community activities. Following recent incidents, they have increased their focus on safeguarding measures. This includes:

- **Enhanced Patrols:** Increased police presence around venues hosting dance classes and other community events to deter potential threats.

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- Community Engagement: Working closely with dance schools and community centres to provide safety advice and support.
- Safeguarding Training: Offering training sessions for staff and volunteers on how to handle and report suspicious activities.

BOTTOM LINE. Remain alert to your surroundings and check your travel plans in advance to avoid getting 'caught up' in civil disorder. We encourage all personnel, including family members, to stay alert to your surroundings, trust your instincts and report anything of a suspicious or unusual nature. Please take a minute and reflect on how you might react, what you might do – in the event of a security/safety incident, an Active Shooter, etc. Be prepared and consider what actions you should take in the event of an incident and all personnel are reminded to remain alert and vigilant. These steps aim to create a safer environment for everyone involved. If you have any specific concerns, it's always a good idea to reach out to your local police station for more detailed information. We would also expect venue coordinators to be reaching out to families.

Our priority is your safety and it is based on the following guidelines:

- **Stay Informed:** Keep up-to-date with reliable news sources and official announcements to understand the situation and any safety instructions.
- **Avoid the Area:** If possible, stay away from areas where riots are occurring to avoid getting caught in the violence.
- **Stay Indoors:** If you're in a location affected by riots, stay indoors and secure your home. Lock doors and windows, and avoid unnecessary travel.
- **Emergency Contacts:** Have a list of emergency contacts and know how to reach local authorities if needed.
- **Help Others:** Check on neighbours, especially the elderly or those with disabilities, to ensure they are safe and have what they need.
- **Document Safely:** If you witness any incidents, document them safely from a distance. This can help authorities later, but never put yourself in harm's way.

It's important to remain calm and follow the guidance of local authorities to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you.

No matter where you are, if something does not look right, *"See Something, Say Something!"*

**ALL PERSONNEL SHOULD REMAIN ALERT AND REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO THE
POLICE ON 999**

**Locally, i.e. 'threat' to Alconbury/Molesworth, you can also use the Eagle Eyes (US Emergency
Military Reporting) system: 911 or 01480-84-1911 or 01480-84-2400**

(NB. If 'on base' you call 911 from a cell/mobile phone it will be automatically routed to the 'off base' 999 system and the blue-light response turns up at the Main Gate without notification. If a 911 response is needed 'on base', it's DSN: 911 or Cell/Mobile: 01480 841911)

SPEED CAMERA MYTHS:

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A widely believed speed camera myth could land you in trouble with police, drivers in the UK have been warned. A motoring expert has lifted the lid on whether the commonly held belief that drivers can go 10% over the speed limit is true or not.

For many years, many motorists have believed that there is a "10% +2 rule" when it comes to speed cameras, suggesting that drivers can exceed the speed limit without facing consequences. However, the truth is that it's actually up to the area's individual forces themselves to decide, meaning drivers could find themselves with hefty fines or penalties.

Speeding costs lives and should never be encouraged, regardless of whether it can land you in trouble or not. Speed limits are not arbitrary figures; they are carefully determined based on factors such as road design, traffic flow, and pedestrian activity. They should not be taken as a target that is there to be exceeded, and failure to adhere to the rules of the road can have serious consequences.

The 10% rule is guidance for the police forces - and not a rule for members of the public. It originates from speed enforcement guidance issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers and is designed to take into account speed guns used by the police aren't always 100% accurate. However, it is also stated the guidelines "do not and cannot replace a police officer's discretion", meaning it is no guarantee of avoiding prosecution.

Other common speed camera myths:

Is it true that speed vans have to be visible at all times?

- No. There are no laws about visibility, so nothing is stopping an officer from operating in the dark. But they don't often choose to do this and maintain that being visible acts as a deterrent in its own right.

Is it illegal to flash your headlights to alert motorists of a GoSafe speed van?

- If drivers choose to flash to warn others about a speed van, they could be in breach of the law. Under section 89 of the Police Act 1997 it is an offence to "wilfully obstruct a constable in the execution of his/her duty".

What happens if I am caught speeding?

- It all comes down to the circumstances within which you were caught speeding, and how much you were more than the limit. The minimum penalty for being caught speeding on the UK's roads is a £100 fine. In some circumstances, police can offer the option of attending a speed awareness course - an alternative to a fine and penalty points.
- Courses are available to drivers who respond quickly to the 'notices' and who were driving at no more than 10%, plus 9 mph above the posted speed limit. So, for example, anyone travelling over 86mph on a motorway would not be offered the awareness course. Those who don't have a clean licence at the

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time of the offence, or if you have been on the course in the last three years, it is unlikely you will be offered the awareness course as an option.

POTHOLES:

Potholes are the bane of motorists' lives. Not only do they make driving a challenge, but they can lead to repair bills of hundreds of pounds.

Encountering potholes is almost inevitable, especially after the last few cold wet months. The **RAC** report their patrols attended nearly 30,000 pothole-related breakdowns last year, up by 33% compared to 2022.

It can be tricky to navigate gaping holes in the road and can seem like a choice between swerving to avoid them, which could result in collisions with oncoming traffic, or risking serious damage to your car.

The motoring experts at Howden Insurance have shared tips on how to avoid potholes and what to do if you hit one.

- **Steps to take if you have hit a pothole:** Don't slam on your brakes: Although it can be a knee-jerk reaction to hit the brakes as soon as you hit a pothole, this may actually cause further damage. Try to reduce your speed slowly, before getting out in a safe place to assess your vehicle. By slamming on the brakes, you are putting more strain and compression onto the vehicle's suspension. This can cause misalignment, tyre and wheel damage and body or exhaust scrapes.
- **Check for damage:** Pull over, when it is safe to do so, and check your vehicle for any damage. Look for any dents, scrapes or visible damages to your wheels or tyres. When you get back into your vehicle, keep an eye out for any changes in the way it drives, such as any vibrations or if your car pulls to the side.
- **Report the pothole:** Making an official report is easy to do, and may help it get fixed more quickly. If you were driving on the motorway when you hit the pothole, you should contact National Highways on 0300 123 5000 or visit <https://report.highwaysengland.co.uk>.
- You can report potholes on **FixMyStreet.com** who will forward details on your behalf.
- **Making a claim:** The insurance experts say you can make a claim for damage caused by a pothole if you have fully comprehensive insurance. You will need to take note of the where the incident occurred, as well as the date, time and weather conditions. The **RAC** say you may be able to claim compensation from the local authority or highways agency. Your chances of being successful will significantly depend on whether the pothole has already been reported. If they believe you have a valid claim, you will normally be sent a damage report form to complete and return. As well as basic information, they recommend including:
 - Copies of estimates or invoices for repairs to your vehicle.
 - A current MOT certificate.
 - Photos of the damage if you have them.

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- The RAC stress that trespassing on a motorway is a criminal offence. Don't visit or try to photograph the location where your vehicle was damaged. Find out more **here**.

TOP SCAM CALLS PLAGUING THE UK

- Phone scams continue to plague both landline and mobile users, resulting in millions of searches for offending numbers on Who Called Me since February. Data collected by [Who Called Me](#) and shared with Which? has revealed the most searched-for scam calls. It shows that people in London and South East England carry out the most searches.
- Who Called Me collects reports of suspicious numbers. Reported numbers are uploaded to its website and users can search and see details of the scam number, and leave comments about the nature of the calls coming from it.

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From 1 Feb - 30 Jun 24, the top scam calls searched on the Who Called Me platform were:

1. Phone contract scam	3,419,100
2. Debt scam	1,568,776
3. Utility scam	1,494,591
4. Energy scam	1,428,304
5. Billing scam	1,298,175
6. Insulation scam	1,044,064
7. Bank scam	987,423
8. Life insurance scam	943,588

Phone scams typically involve fraudsters 'spoofing' a business's legitimate phone number or another random phone number to avoid being detected. Scammers use spoofing to make it seem as if they're calling from the same local area or country as potential victims.

Avoiding phone scams:

- Never reveal your financial information over the phone.
- Register with [the Telephone Preference Service \(TPS\)](#). This will stop legitimate companies from making unsolicited sales and marketing calls to your phone number, so when you receive a call, you'll know it's a scammer.
- Install a [call blocker](#) for nuisance calls.
- Make sure to use a different phone or wait for at least 15 minutes before calling a company back on a trusted number. This is because scammers may be able to keep your phone line open even after you've hung up.
- Call 159 if you receive a call claiming to be from your bank. When you call, you'll be put through to your bank's genuine customer service line, [but only some banks are involved in the scheme](#).

Reporting scam callers:

- If you receive a spam call on an iPhone, you can report it to your provider by texting the word 'call' followed by the phone number to 7726.
- If you have an Android phone, text the word 'call' to 7726. You'll then receive a message asking you for the scam number.
- For scam calls received on WhatsApp, open the WhatsApp chat with the dodgy phone number and tap 'block'. You can report the contact by tapping 'report contact' and 'block'.
- You can also search and report suspicious phone numbers on [Who Called Me](#).
- If you become the victim of a scam, call your bank immediately using the number on the back of your bank card and report it to [Action Fraud](#), or call the police on 101 if you're in Scotland.

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ARE MY APPS SPYING ON ME?

From an AVAST article:

Here's the answer to that age-old question: Are my apps spying on me?

- Downloaded a weather app to your phone? You might think it's no big deal, just a quick way to determine if you should grab your umbrella before heading out on a lunch date. But that weather app? It might be spying on you and selling the information it collects to advertisers.
- Weather apps have long been accused of sharing the location data of their users with marketing and advertising companies. It's a way for these apps to make money. But it's also a hit to your privacy.
- If you're worried that some of your favourite apps are tracking how often you buy eggs at your local supermarket or which coffee shops you favour? You're not being paranoid. Your apps are snooping on you and selling your data.
- Fortunately, you can take steps to regain at least some of your privacy. It's about avoiding the spammiest of apps and setting the right privacy settings on the apps you do download.
- The Weather Channel isn't the only weather app that shares location data with third parties. The popular AccuWeather app has made the news for the same thing. In 2019, the BBC reported on the ways in which the app Weather Forecast—World Weather Accurate Radar spied on its users. This app asked for users' geographic locations, email addresses and International Mobile Equipment Identity numbers, a 15-digit code that is used to identify users' devices.
- **The lesson here?** It might be better to check your local news sources online for the forecast instead of installing a weather app on your phone.

Other snoops:

- Weather apps aren't the only ones snooping on you. Social media apps – some of the worst offenders — food-delivery apps, YouTube, and apps that help you search for train tickets all rank among some of the biggest snoops, sharing your purchase history, locations, contact information, and search histories with third parties, most often advertisers.
- Cloud storage provider pCloud published a study in 2021 of what it considered the most invasive apps, those that spied the most on its users. The results? The company found that 52% of the apps it studied shared user data with third parties.

Among the worst offenders?:

Instagram topped the list. The social media site shared its users' purchases, location, contact information, contacts, search history, usage data, financial data, and diagnostics information with third parties. pCloud said that Instagram collected 79% of its users' personal data.

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Facebook came in second place, sharing users' purchases, contact information, location, contacts, user content, diagnostics, and financial information with third parties.

Next came another social media site, LinkedIn, which pCloud says shares its users' purchases, location, contact information, user content, search history, identifiers, and usage data.

Delivery service Uber Eats ranked fourth, the first non-social media site on the list, sharing its users' purchases, location, contact information, search history, identifiers, and usage data with third parties.

Trainline, a service that allows users to search for train tickets, pulled up in the fifth spot, sharing its users' purchase, location, contact, search history, and usage data.

Other popular apps on pCloud's list include:

- YouTube
- YouTube Music
- Deliveroo
- Duolingo
- eBay
- TikTok
- ESPN
- Reddit
- Snapchat
- Spotify
- CNN
- Pandora
- Hulu
- Roku
- Amazon Prime
- Grindr
- Tinder
- Twitter
- Wish
- Nike
- CNBC
- AOL
- Turbo Tax
- Coinbase
- DoorDash

What can you do?

- The odds are high that many of the apps you use the most are on this list. This doesn't mean, though, that you can't boost your online privacy. It doesn't mean, either, that you should delete all your favourite apps.
- You can increase your privacy by tweaking the settings of the apps you've downloaded.

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- Regularly review the permissions that the apps on your phone request. You can access these permissions by going to your phone's "Settings" and then clicking on "Apps."
- Look for permissions that an app shouldn't need to function. Pay special attention to apps that request access to your contact list, camera, location and microphone. Apps can nab plenty of information about you— -- including where you shop, how often you shop at these places, who your friends are and even what you say – from these permissions that it can then share with third parties. If you discover an app that requests access to your phone's camera even though it shouldn't need it? Either delete the app or remove permission for that app to use this feature of your device.
- An app might need access to your phone's, laptop's or tablet's location services. You can, though, limit these apps so that they can only access this information when you are using it. When you are not using the app, it won't be able to track your location.
- The commission also recommends not automatically signing into apps through a social network account such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. If you do this, the app might be able to collect your personal information from that social media account. It might also let the social media account collect information from the app. It's better to sign into your apps with your email address and a unique password.
- And maybe the best advice of all? The Federal Trade Commission recommends that you delete any apps that you don't need. If you are no longer using an app, get rid of it.
- You can protect your privacy, too, by being selective about the apps you download. Before downloading an app, research it online. If users have privacy concerns, you'll find reports online. And only download apps from trusted sites such as Apple's The App Store and Google's Android App Store.

STAY ALERT, STAY ALIVE:

This summer will see millions of people across the UK and Europe enjoying themselves at major events such as music festivals, sporting events (Euros, Olympics), bank holidays, etc.

Unfortunately, whilst trying to keep it in perspective, the terror threat hasn't gone away. The threat to the UK from terrorism is **SUBSTANTIAL**, meaning an attack is likely. We know that the summer events and venues could be attractive targets for terrorist activity. That's why UK Counter Terrorism Policing is collaborating with event organisers and businesses across the UK to help keep the public safe this summer. In France, the policing and security measures for the Olympics are second to none.

You can play your part by promoting the campaign using the new toolkit launched today on [ProtectUK](#)

Policing and security authorities encourage the public to trust their instincts and report anything that doesn't feel right to security or the police.

- You can help by sharing campaign messages for any events you are organising or supporting.
- You can increase your awareness by taking the free online ACT Awareness e-learning training.

Promoting the summer campaign is also a powerful way of using communications as an extra layer of protective security. By supporting the campaign and using security-minded communications, you could help to deter hostile activity at major events.

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We all have a role to play in keeping each other safe.

Wherever you are, whatever the situation....



**If you see something, say something.
Stay Alert, Stay Alive!**

...and don't forget basic crime prevention:



DRINK AND DRUG DRIVING SUMMER CAMPAIGNS

- The 'summer' campaigns by police forces are already in place in a bid to crack down on those who think they can drink or take drugs and drive and get away with it
- With hopes high for a long hot summer, drivers are reminded to enjoy the long evenings, but not to drink and drive.
- Police officers will be out in force during the campaign in a bid to crack down on those who think they can drink or take drugs and drive and get away with it.

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- Summer is a time for socialising and having fun and this year will be no exception, particularly with some of the major sporting events taking place.
- The message is clear, have fun, drink if you want to, but don't then get behind the wheel and drive. If you take that risk you will be caught.
- Drink and drug driving are serious offences and drivers should be in no doubt that if they are caught behind the wheel under the influence this summer they risk losing their licence as well as facing a fine and even a prison sentence.
- The number of drink driving deaths has fallen by more than 75% since 1979. But drink and drug driving still kills hundreds of people, that is why the police take tough action to tackle these reckless drivers.



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