Reporting incidents to the police:

If you are the victim of boat theft, call the police immediately on 101. Check to make sure that your boat is still seaworthy and hasn’t been badly damaged. And, if you can, check that neighbouring boats haven’t been broken into as well.

If your call is an emergency, i.e. a threat to life, or if a crime is in progress, call 999 immediately.

If it is simply a matter of informing the police of a marine incident that does not require an immediate response then call Dorset Police on 101, email at enquires@dorset.pnn.police.co.uk, or call free and anonymous on the Crimestoppers line on 0800 555 111.

Make sure you take as much information as possible, such as serial numbers, when reporting a crime.

Contact information:

If you would like to contact the Marine Section about any non-urgent marine matter then please call 101, or email enquires@dorset.pnn.police.co.uk giving as many details as possible.

Don't wave goodbye to your boat

Security checklist:

- Don’t leave anything loose in the cockpit or on the deck
- Always put your valuables in a strong, fixed locker and secure with a quality deadlock or padlock
- Take your personal and vessel papers with you – don’t leave them on board
- Don’t leave your home address on show
- Don’t leave your keys in the ignition – always take them with you
- Keep your boat keys separate from your engine keys
- Make sure your curtains are closed so no-one can look in
- Ensure all unused ropes, fenders and other items are out of sight in your cockpit lockers and cupboards
- Make sure that your life raft and outboard motor are secure, as these are valuable and attractive to boat thieves
- If you’re leaving your boat on a trailer for the winter consider putting it on blocks
- Keep your list of serial numbers up to date
- Take pictures of your property so that it can be easily identified if recovered.

www.dorset.police.uk
Dorset Police is committed to turning the tide on marine crime.

The Marine Section, based at Poole Harbour, is responsible for policing the 89 miles of coastline in Dorset.

This includes the busy and popular Weymouth and Christchurch Harbours, the smaller fishing ports of West Bay, Lyme Regis and Swanage and the world’s second largest natural harbour at Poole.

All Marine Section staff are experienced police officers who have successfully completed intensive training to join the section.

In addition to investigating crimes that have occurred, Marine Section officers carry out regular, preventative patrols and encourage boat owners and users to take steps to reduce crime.

Every member of the community can play their part in the fight against crime by taking sensible security precautions, looking out for others and reporting any suspicious activity to the police immediately.

Security advice

It’s important that you take the security of your boat as seriously as you would the security of your own home.

Thieves are attracted to all kinds of things on your boat. They could take your outboard motor, your life raft or your expensive marine equipment. They’ll also steal anything else that takes their fancy – your radio, tools, personal items and even the boat itself.

Follow the advice outlined in this leaflet and you will go a long way towards keeping your boat secure from thieves.

Crime reduction:

There is a very simple principle to crime reduction. The more difficult you make life for the criminal, the more likely they are to leave your property alone. To keep your boat safe, take three simple steps:

1. **Lock it**

Fit good quality locks to all boats, trailers and dinghies. Boats fitted with surface-mounted barrel locks or cheap padlocks are more likely to attract thieves.

We recommend that you fit a good quality padlock and hasp ‘n’ staples secured by stainless steel nuts and bolts to all hatches and deck lockers. Loose equipment such as anchors and oars should be secured by wire rope, or chain and locks.

2. **Mark it**

Every year, property worth thousands of pounds is recovered by the police and not returned to its rightful owners, simply because it cannot be identified.

There are many methods of marking your property e.g. engraving, etching, die stamping, identification paint or an invisible marking product such as Smartwater ® or Datatag ®.

Engraving your postcode onto items of equipment provides the most permanent and visible deterrent to the thief. We would recommend this for all your equipment.

Items such as dinghies and inflatables should be marked with your postcode using paint or a permanent visible marker pen in large letters.

You should also make sure you record all details of your property and boating equipment – including serial numbers.

3. **Alarm it**

Alarm systems are getting even better, with some using mobile phone technology to alert if they become activated. Knowing exactly when a crime, or attempted crime, has occurred assists in locating and identifying offenders. These systems are becoming more accessible and affordable.

Putting visible signs and LED lights on your property will deter and frustrate most criminals. Recordable CCTV is also well within reach and should be a visible deterrent to any offender.