

AD HEALTH & SAFETY

Event Safety Solutions



WYCHWOOD FESTIVAL MAY 2009

This was the Wychwood Music Festival's fifth year. The festival has an excellent atmosphere and is very family friendly with an excellent reputation for music and creative content. Sadly, two years ago, the festival was marred by a spate of thefts from tents, the following year although police and additional security were on site, the crime pattern changed and again there were thefts from tents. Due to the mode of some of the thefts safety concerns were raised.

As an extension of their event safety role AD Health & Safety were asked to look at the crime issues and implement a plan to reduce thefts from tents.

Firstly a security strategy was implemented from which a range of tactical options was devised to counter the most likely and realistic security threats. This carried through to the operational phase which included detailed briefing, directed proactive work and a partnership approach. What made this more of a challenge was trying to achieve and deliver the plan with less resource due to the current financial climate.

The end results showed that the proof really is in the planning and exceeded the expectations of everyone, with no reported thefts from tents. All involved hailed the initiative as a resounding success, with particular praise from Gloucestershire Police. This has now created an excellent bench mark to carry forward and has created best practice which, if replicated at other Music Festivals, will undoubtedly reduce and deter thefts from tents which are, let's face it, your home when you are away.

Testimonial

“Like a number of festivals Wychwood has been the target of campsite thefts over the last couple of years. We employed AD Health & Safety and their skills to review our security and stewarding arrangements for the 2009 festival, identifying our strengths and weaknesses across the site and with personnel, and to maximize the skills already around the festival. We were exceptionally pleased with their professional and no-nonsense approach and as a result of their services this year we are very pleased to say that we experienced no campsite thefts. Also, we have a solid framework now in place to deliver the best security and stewarding arrangements for our future festivals, giving security for the business. There was no tangible difference for our customers except for feeling even more secure when attending Wychwood which, being family-friendly as a core value, is a vital part of our business success.”

Graeme Merrified - Festival Director

