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Firms Urged to Check Security

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News Reporter

Youngsters across Doncaster may be waiting for Santa to climb down the chimney - but crime experts are warning borough businesses burglars might gain access instead.

The South Yorkshire based Business Crime Reduction Centre has revealed last year more than 100 businesses were burgled over the festive period in Doncaster.

Centre bosses fear recession could mean even more burglaries this year if firms don't make sure their security is watertight.

Figures reveal 126 firms were burgled in the borough during Christmas shutdown last winter.

And the Business Crime Reduction Centre estimates the

figure could actually have been higher - 100 cases of criminal damage may have been caused by would-be-burglars trying to break in.

Business adviser Zac Wharton said "During the festive period most businesses have a shutdown, some just over Christmas and others stretching into the New Year. This presents an ideal time for criminals to attack.

"We are very concerned that the levels of crime that occurred last year will continue and possibly increase this year.

"Leaving premises unattended is an invitation for criminals to attack and unfortunately many business owners return to discover they have been burgled"

The centre is appealing for businesses to get in touch to see if they can help with security. Log onto www.bcrc-uk.org or call 0114 275 1283 for advice.

The centre operates throughout Yorkshire and is a project belonging to the Yorkshire and Humber Police charity. It works with the police on a number of crime reduction strategies for businesses.

Last month Doncaster was named as one of the worst areas in the country for business crime, which is costing the borough £33 million a year.

Police admitted there has been a slight increase in business crime this year but said they were taking steps to tackle it.