Holiday alert on bombing of cottages

POLICE YESTERDAY warned owners of second homes in Wales to be on their guard over Easter following the latest arson attack on a holiday cottage.

Detectives investigating the fire — at Llanfihangel-Creuddyn, Dyfed, say it was started by a petrol bomb thrown through a window.

With many holiday cottages likely to be occupied next weekend, police are worried that a similar attack will endanger life.

In previous incidents in West Wales, fire-raisers have planted incendiary devices and police said the use of a petrol bomb was a new — and potentially more dangerous — tactic.

Det Chief Insp Don Evans, who is leading the inquiry, said the effect of a petrol bomb was immediate and endangered the attacker as well as anyone who might be in the house.

The cottage at Llanfihangel-Creuddyn was bought 10 years ago by two co-directors of a West Midlands frozen-food firm.

Death risk in arson attack

The arson campaign against Welsh holiday cottages took a new and disturbing turn when for the first time a Molotov cocktail was used to cause damage.

The device was hurled through a window into a holiday home belonging to the directors of a frozen food firm at Llanfihangel Creuddyn, 10 miles east of Aberystwyth.

So far in the attacks on holiday cottages in Wales, houses have been broken into and incendiary devices planted to cause as much damage as possible and also to make sure there is no one inside the dwelling.

At Aberystwyth police station yesterday Inspector Kerry Adams said: "The device was thrown through the window without the arsonist knowing whether the house was inhabited."

The cottage named Claynafon belongs to the directors of Fiesta Frozen Foods of Stourbridge.