

# OVER THE FENCELINES

August September 2013

## NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT ROTORUA

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## Prepare Your Household For An Civil Defence Emergency!

As part of a Neighbourhood Support Group you are not only standing up against crime in your area but also preparing for a civil defence emergency when it arrives. It is extremely important to have your household registered with your Group as this records your details on the Neighbourhood Support database. This can be done simply by filling in a Household Detail Form, obtained from the office or downloaded from the website ([nsrotorua.info/forms](http://nsrotorua.info/forms)), completing it and giving it to your street Contact Person or drop it into the office.

The details on the Household Detail Form are kept secure and are for only Neighbourhood Support eyes. If Civil Defence declares an emergency this is the only time we make any information available to anyone else. This will be in the form of number of people in a household, special medical problems and resources/skills available that could be used in the emergency.

Your Street Contact Person should be updating your list at least once a year. If your list is not up to date when an emergency occurs we will have the wrong details available!!!

Neighbourhood Support forwards notification of crimes in your area to the Street Contact Person. The Street Contact Person should also forward these to registered. If you are not receiving these check with your Contact to see if they are receiving them.

## Coming to a website near you!!!

In October the Neighbourhood Support Rotorua website ([nsrotorua.info](http://nsrotorua.info)) will have listed more detailed information made available from the Police. Included in this information will be people, vehicles and property Police are looking for as well as information of where burglaries have been occurring.

Check the website regularly to keep up to date. The new information will appear under the heading Rotorua Police Requests.

Neighbourhood Support  
Gratefully acknowledges  
the support of these  
Organisations:



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## A Note From Bruce

Local body elections are just around the corner and there will be plenty of opportunities to quiz the candidates about your local concerns. If you are concerned with crime prevention and community spirit ask about the candidate's stance on these matters.

Of particular concern to Neighbourhood Support is the level of funding that over the last three years has been reduced yet the level of service is expected to be the same. Presently

Neighbourhood Support covers approximately 34% of Rotorua District households with three part time staff and volunteers. Reduction of crime and improvement of community spirit are paramount in our work.

The Police are doing an excellent job of reducing crime levels with their Prevention First strategy, but there is still crime about. To help reduce it even more become intolerant to crime in your area. If you see something, do something: contact the Police and report what you have seen.

Recently there has been a spate of cars being broken into. Those who do this often quickly sell their ill-gotten gains to feed their drug habits. If you are offered cheap good quality electronic gear such as iphones, ipads, tablets, GPS's etc it is most likely to have been stolen from someone's vehicle. If you buy them, you are helping to increase the crime level by giving those thieves a market place.

Similarly if you allow a 'tinnie house', they are houses that sells drugs, to exist in your neighbourhood it invites undesirables to your area. 'Tinnie houses' are visible by the many visitors for short periods, just enough time to purchase their drugs. If you suspect a 'tinnie house' is in your area let the Police know. They can't act without information so please give them the information.



## Keeping Safe At Home

Senior Sergeant Denton Grimes and I have recently have had the privilege to talk with some of our older citizens about home safety. We value these opportunities to give advice to help prevent crime in your home or when you go out.

Everyone needs to keep alert at all times. If strangers come knocking on your door offering to do work for you be wary! They may be legitimate but many are conmen and thieves looking for opportunities to relieve you of your money or possessions. Don't invite them into your house as they may be checking to see what they could take. If you need work done around your home get a reputable tradesman to do the work. Many organisations have lists of recommended trade companies to deal with and also your trusted friends could recommend tradesmen to you.

If you are at home and need to go to another part of your house or property don't leave your door open or unlocked, it is an invitation for someone to come in and take your possessions. Ensure that doors are locked and windows are closed and secured. Also don't forget about your garage and garden sheds, lock them. When you park your car, even at home, close the windows and lock it, even if it is in your garage.

## Operation Sign Up

[www.ns.org.nz](http://www.ns.org.nz)



**NEIGHBOURHOOD  
SUPPORT  
AREA**



Funding has finally been made available to get the manufacturing of the signs underway as part of Operation Sign Up. Thanks goes to Rotorua Rentals and Rotorua Energy Community Trust for the support through the provision of the funding!!!!

By mounting signs where Neighbourhood Support Groups exist you will be telling those around you that you care for your neighbourhood. It also lets the criminal element know that there will be people in that area looking out for each other and they will report suspicious activity.

The next step is to have the signs manufactured, which is underway at the present time and some further funding obtained.

## Record Your Serial Numbers!!!!

Help Police identify your property if it is stolen by recording your serial numbers.

Operation SNAP (Serial Number Action Partnership) is an initiative of the New Zealand Police, aiming to prevent New Zealand burglary and property offending, and make it harder for criminals to sell stolen goods in New Zealand. The initiative helps to protect property.

The SNAP website (<http://www.snap.org.nz>) allows you to enter and maintain details of all of your important possessions or assets. You can then access this asset list from anywhere, anytime. If your items are stolen, you can instantly retrieve your asset list details, and forward these on to the Police and your insurance company.

You can take action by recording your appliance serial numbers. Download a serial number form from the website under Forms. If you don't have internet access, contact the office on 349-9470.

**OPERATION** >>>>>>>>  
**SNAP**  
[www.snap.org.nz](http://www.snap.org.nz)

# Giving A Good Description

When you see something and do something by calling the Police it is extremely helpful to give a good description of the people or vehicles involved. Write down what the people or vehicles look like as this will help you when talking with the 111 operator.

When you call 111 remain calm, ask for the Police and give your name, address and phone number. Report where, when and what is happening. The operator will ask you questions and the answers will be entered into a computer system that will be sent to the Police patrol tasked to that incident. This saves time so the Police can get on with investigating the incident as soon as they arrive .

Your description will help the Police greatly. They can keep watch on the way to the job for people and vehicles that fit the description you give.

Important details to note:



Male or female

Age group

Race (Pakeha, Pacific, Māori, Asian)

Height (compare height against some fixed object if possible)

Body type ( thin, medium, muscular, fat)

Hair cut (long, curly, short, shaved, balding)

Hair colour (fair, black, brown, red, grey)

Clothing can be distinguishing and helpful in providing a good description. Things to look for are:

headwear (cap, beanie, balaclava),  
tops (distinctive logos, colours and styles)  
pants (shorts, jeans, colour)  
footwear (shoes, boots, sandals, barefooted)

If you have the opportunity to observe the person in detail look for:

Facial features (shape of face, including mouth, nose, chin)  
Facial hair (moustache, full beard, goatee beard)  
Eye colour (black, blue, green, hazel, grey, brown)  
Glasses (reading glasses or sunglasses)  
Tattoos  
Jewellery, face studs & piercing



Were they carrying anything e.g. a weapon? Were they smoking? Were there any other characteristics of note about the person? If you heard them speak, did they have an accent or speech impediment? What did they say?

If a vehicle is involved write down:

Registration number  
Colour  
Make  
Model.  
Observe if it was damaged or rusty.  
Did it have any writing on it?  
Which way did it leave the area?