



MAWSON/SWINGER HILL Neighbourhood Watch Group

August 2009

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AFP

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

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On the beat

Unfortunately, Canberra is not immune from drug activity and like any other city we do have a drug element in our society. ACT Policing employs a range of different tools and tactics to identify and prosecute those responsible for the trade of illegal drugs in the Territory, including specialist drug investigation teams and intelligence assets.

Another important tool available to police in combating the use and abuse of illegal drugs is you. As a member of the community, there are a number of simple things you can do to help police identify those responsible for the manufacture and distribution of illegal drugs.

This includes being on the lookout for any suspicious activity occurring at houses in your neighbourhood. Things to look for include strange odours, blacked-out or sealed windows, unusual traffic flow or intermittent visitors, chemical containers and waste, hoses and pipes for ventilation or water supply, a lack of occupancy or secretive occupants and extremely bright indoor lighting.

In a recent example of how effective information from the public can be, police conducted search warrants on two residential premises in Flynn and Page earlier this month [July], resulting in the seizure of approximately \$600,000 worth of cannabis.

Police rely daily on information and assistance from members of the public and you should never underestimate how valuable your information can be – it may very well be the missing piece that police need to complete the puzzle and take action. Any action can be provided to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000, anonymously if you wish.

Source: *The Chronicle*, 14 July 2009

Guide to safe driving

- Keep at a safe distance behind other vehicles. A good guide is to keep at least one car length behind the vehicle in front of you for every 10 kilometres per hour your vehicle is travelling along the road. In the wet, and at night, leave more distance.
- Ensure your mobile phone is switched off or diverted while you are driving.
- Avoid driving when fatigued. Pull over and take power naps on long trips.
- Be especially alert at high pedestrian areas such as shopping centres and crossings.
- Slow down in pedestrian areas (i.e. schools, kindergartens, shops and the like).
- Be aware of bicycles and motorbikes.
- Drop back or move across to allow for merging traffic.
- Ensure your blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is below the legal limit prior to driving. Remember your BAC may still be over the limit the morning after.
- Approach intersections with caution, at a speed that allows you to stop if necessary.
- Be courteous and considerate to all other road users.
- Indicate early when changing lanes or turning so that other road users have plenty of warning.
- Plan your route well ahead so that you do not 'cut in' on other drivers.
- Remain calm at all times.

More comprehensive information is available from the ACT road rules handbook, obtainable from the ACT Government Territory and Municipal Services web site <http://www.tams.act.gov.au/>
Source: http://afp.gov.au/act/road_traffic/safer_driving.html

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Crime Statistics:

Crime statistics are deleted from the website at the request of the AFP - they are available on hard copies distributed to all residents of the suburb.

Witnesses sought to copper pipe theft

Wednesday, 05 August 2009

ACT Policing is seeking witnesses to a burglary at a building site in Phillip in which around \$10,000 worth of copper cable and pipe was stolen.

It is believed that offenders gained entry to the three-story construction site, on the corner of Shea Street and Athllon Drive in Phillip, between the hours of 5pm on Saturday August 1, and 7am on Monday, August 3.

Six-metre lengths of copper pipe and an amount of cabling was stolen from the location. Police believe that offenders may have used an angle grinder to cut the material up before removing it.

Police are appealing for any witnesses who may have seen or heard suspicious persons, vehicles or activity around the construction site between the hours of 5pm Saturday and 7am Monday to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000, or via the Crime Stoppers website on www.act.crimestoppers.com.au.

Media enquiries:

ACT Policing
Media and Public Relations Ph: 02 6256 7460

Source:

http://afp.gov.au/media_releases/act/2009/witnesses_sought_to_copper_pipe_theft

Hoax triple zero calls costing police valuable time

Thursday, 06 August 2009

ACT Policing lost approximately 600 work hours in the period between 1 January and 30 June this year due to hoax, nuisance or inappropriate telephone calls made to Police Operations.

Of the 15,700 calls made to the triple zero emergency service during this period, 60% (9,400) were identified as a hoax or an inappropriate use of the service, and ACT Policing Superintendent Operations Chris Sheehan says this reduces ACT Policing's capacity to respond to genuine incidents in a timely manner.

"These calls occupy emergency service lines unnecessarily and have the potential to delay a genuine call for emergency assistance being answered. This can obviously have dire consequences," Superintendent Sheehan said.

"Nuisance or hoax phone calls may also lead to emergency responses being activated, such as urgent duty driving, creating an unnecessary risk for police, emergency services members and the general public," he said.

"This is something that is taken very seriously by police, and as recently as last night a 16-year-old male was apprehended and subsequently charged with causing public mischief in relation to alleged hoax calls made to triple zero."

Supt Sheehan says the triple zero emergency number is there to ensure that emergency service resources are able to respond to urgent requests for assistance as a priority, and should only be used for life threatening or emergency situations.

"Incorrect or inappropriate use of the triple zero service may delay a police response to a real life and death situation. If members of the public wish to report a crime or a non life threatening incident, they can contact ACT Policing assistance line on 131 444," Supt Sheehan said.

"Alternatively, if people have information about illegal activity or suspect offenders, they can contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or via the website at www.act.crimestoppers.com.au," he said.

Media enquiries:

ACT Policing
Media and Public Relations Ph: 02 6256 7460

Source:

http://afp.gov.au/media_releases/act/2009/hoax_trip_le_zero_calls_costing_police_valuable_time.html

Please assist our police by reporting all suspicious activity to: CRIME STOPPERS use: 1800 333 000.

**For police attendance use: 131 444.
But, for all life-threatening emergencies use: "0 0 0"**