



MAWSON/SWINGER HILL Neighbourhood Watch Group

November 2009

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AFP
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Sponsorship and distribution of this newsletter to residents in Chifley, Curtin, Farrer, Hughes, Isaacs, Lyons and Mawson/Swinger Hill is authorised by ACT NHW Inc. A modified version without monthly crime statistics is available at: <http://www.nhwact.com.au>

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. this bushfire season

The ACT Emergency Services Agency has adopted the new nationally developed framework for bushfire information in the Territory ahead of the 2009/2010 official bushfire season.

The changes in the ACT include:

- using the new Fire Danger Metre featuring two new levels, SEVERE and CATASTROPHIC (CODE RED);
- publishing the Fire Danger Indices with the daily Fire Danger Rating; and
- replacing the Stay and Defend or Go Early slogan with PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

The table at

http://www.rfs.act.gov.au/ESAWebsite/content_rfs/rfs_home_page/rfs_home_page.html outlines the Fire Danger Ratings and provides you with some insight into what the fire behaviour might be and the potential impacts.

These ratings have been created using research from past events; statistics on loss of life and property that tell us the danger is real and where various Regulations and Codes for building in bushfire areas are applicable.

To find out how to PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE go to

http://www.esa.act.gov.au/ESAWebsite/content_esa/bushfires/16_09_2009_prepare_act_survive_guide

Read more on the ACT adopting a new fire warning system at

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8559&m=53>
Source:

http://www.rfs.act.gov.au/ESAWebsite/content_rfs/rfs_home_page/rfs_home_page.html

Do you qualify for a free engine immobiliser?

The ACT Government is currently subsidizing the cost of car engine immobilisers to ACT residents who own a pre 2001 vehicle.

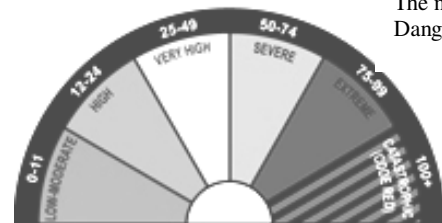
People with health care card or pension card may qualify for a full subsidy for the installation of an engine immobiliser in their vehicle. Even if you do not hold these cards, you may still qualify for a subsidy of \$100 towards the cost.

An immobiliser protects your car by temporarily interrupting the power supply to the fuel pump, the starter motor, and/or the ignition. Without power to these systems, your vehicle cannot start.

The immobiliser is fitted by an authorized installer and is a short process, which will generally take less than a day.

These installers are located throughout Canberra.

To find out more, please call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81



The new Fire Danger Meter

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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.

Suspicious activity in your street?

Well, if you are reading this newsletter it is fair to assume you are someone who cares about the safety and wellbeing of yourself and your neighbours. But what would you do if you saw some suspicious activity in your street? What should you do?

Your first consideration is to ask yourself how confident you are in confronting the suspects. Most criminals will move on without completing the crime if they know they've been seen. You could speak to them in a friendly way asking if you can help them – of course you are not going to help them commit a crime! They may have a legitimate reason for what they are doing.

Do not confront the suspects if you feel it could put you in personal danger. Try to take note of identifying details of the suspects including their general appearance, clothing and motor vehicle details. It is difficult to remember these details later unless you make a conscious effort up front.

If you choose to pick up a phone, remember that the Crime Stoppers phone line **1800 333 000** is for information about crimes, but for urgent Police assistance call **131 444**. Remember that **000** is only for life-threatening emergencies – not for minor crime even if it is currently in progress. You will be asked for details including the street name when reporting a crime, so be prepared and it may save time and embarrassment.

Citizen's arrest is a real option but only if you feel confident in doing that. There are guidelines around exercising this option including the use of force to detain a suspect. You don't want to escalate the incident or become a victim yourself.

In any incident, take considered and responsible action. Looking the other way is just not an option.

For further valuable information see www.AFP.gov.au/act.html (Policing in the ACT) including http://www.afp.gov.au/act/victims/citizens_powers_of_arrest.html

Many thanks to Graham Byrne of Hughes for this contribution

At the time of going to print, the first Australian Catastrophic fire danger warning has been issued. Inform yourself of the new fire danger ratings and what you should do in an emergency.

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”