



Suspicious people and vehicles. Constable Julia WILLIAMS

At recent Neighbourhood Support Meetings and other community events, people have raised concerns about suspicious people on their street and what to do should they see someone they think may be up to no good.

With burglaries and car crime still an issue in the area, it's good to be vigilant and know what is happening in your street.

An authorised person, such as a water meter reader, will always carry identification on them and have the necessary equipment. If you are concerned about them entering your property then ask to see their identification. If you are still not satisfied contact your local water company to confirm meter readers are operating in your street.



Tree trimmers frequent our area, walking from door to door asking if they can do yard work. We get quite a few reports from people unsure if they are legitimate tradesman or not as often they are wearing a high viz vest but have no identification and do not drive a very professional vehicle. If you are not interested in their services, then decline politely and if you are not satisfied they are legitimate then note down the registration of the vehicle they are in and the direction they left in and call Police with your concerns.

Be aware if you get a knock on the door and the person on the other side seems surprised to see you then they may be up to no good. Often burglars knock on the door and if someone answers they will make up an excuse like they have lost their dog or make a quick exit. They don't want you to be home so if you do hear a knock at the door and don't want to answer it, just pop your head out the window or shout out and acknowledge you are home. Don't open the door if you don't feel comfortable to do so. If you have the opportunity, get as much of a description about that suspicious person as you can to forward on to Police.

If you encounter any such people and are suspicious of their intentions, then note as much detail as possible and telephone Police immediately on 111.

Often it is hard to determine if people or vehicles are suspicious. Do they belong on your street? The best way to determine this is by getting to know your neighbours and becoming familiar with their faces and vehicles. Neighbourhood Support Groups are a great way of meeting your neighbours. For more information about Neighbourhood Support visit - <http://www.nsupport.co.nz>.