



**EASTERN REGION DIVISION FIVE
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND
SAFER COMMUNITIES GROUPS
BASS COAST. BAW BAW. LATROBE AND SOUTH GIPPSLAND**



**Gippsland
Arson
Prevention
Program**

Working Together to Create Safer Communities

FACT SHEET

**REPORT SUSPICIOUS ARSON ACTIVITY IN THE BUSH -
GIPPSLAND ARSON PREVENTION PROGRAM (GAPP)**



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GAPP was formed as a result of the devastating 2009 Gippsland bushfires. Emergency management agencies and industries from across Gippsland joined together to target and reduce the incidence of arson. Joining Victoria Police and the CFA in partnership to combat arson are organisations and businesses including HVP Plantations, Loy Yang Power, Tru Energy, Gippsland Water, local government such as Latrobe City, Wellington, Baw Baw and South Gippsland Shires, the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Parks Victoria and Monash University's Sustainability Institute.

Employees from all partner agencies are on the lookout for suspicious behaviour in our bush. They have the capacity to immediately contact police and CFA should the need arise.

The aim is to reduce the incidence and impact of bushfire arson across Gippsland. Protocols have been developed to ensure a coordinated approach to field patrols, engagement with the media and educating the community that individuals have a role to play. There is open communication and information sharing amongst all members of the partnership.

But it is not just the authorities and industry which have a role to play in preventing a repeat of the 2009 bushfires. All members of the community have a part to play to ensure the community's collective safety during the fire season.

Individuals must stand up and be counted. Whether you live, work in or simply travel through bushfire prone areas, be alert to the possibility you might see something or know someone who may be planning to deliberately light a bushfire.

Arsonists often do not travel far from home. If an arsonist is a local then it stands to reason that some members of the local community may have suspicions about the arsonist. It is the locals who see and hear things at a grass root level and where arson is concerned, locals need to be the eyes and ears of the police.

By recognising people who commit bushfire arson often live and work in local communities, as a responsible member of the community you are encouraged to record descriptions of both persons and vehicles you believe are behaving in a suspicious manner in areas likely to be targeted by arsonists.

Police urge anyone who who observes something that piques your curiosity and gives you the feeling that this is not quite right to fill in the GAPP Suspicious Incident Report on the rear of this fact sheet.

You may not feel the need to report the incident immediately to police, but in the event it becomes a series of incidents the information you record may help prevent or solve a crime. Small bits of information when collated can lead to the building of a significant profile about persons and vehicles of interest and arson related activities.

Place the blank GAPP Suspicious Incident Report on your refrigerator or put it in an easy to get to spot. Notes made immediately after an incident are more accurate than if you try to remember or recreate the incident hours or days later. They are also given more credence by the courts in the event an offender is arrested, charged and prosecuted.

Further copies of GAPP Suspicious Incident Report may be downloaded at the Neighbourhood Watch Victoria Website at <http://www.nhw.com.au/Eastern-Region/Latrobe/Crime-Watch-Newsletters>

Police urge anyone who may have information related to arson activities to contact Crime Stoppers on: 1800 333 000 or visit: www.crimestoppers.com.au or ring 000 if the threat is immediate.



Produced by Eastern Region Division 5 Community Liaison Office in partnership with Eastern Region Division 5 Neighbourhood Watch/Safer Community Group. For further information, contact L/S/C Brett Godden (Community Liaison Officer) on 5131 5085 or email brett.godden@police.vic.gov.au



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Creating Safer Communities

**SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT REPORT
GIPPSLAND ARSON PREVENTION PROGRAM**

This information could help solve a crime. Use one form for each person and vehicle. Place on fridge or in easy access.

Time..... Date/...../.....

Location of Incident.....

Nature of Incident.....

Reported By..... Phone

Address

For immediate police assistance ring 000.



SUSPECT PERSON

SUSPECT VEHICLE

Sex				Height:cm		Vehicle Make				
M		F (circle)		Tall	Short (circle)	BMW		Mitsubishi		
Build				Complexion		Datsun		Nissan		
Fat				Dark		Ford		Peugeot		
Medium				Medium		Honda		Saab		
Muscular				Pale		Hyundai		Subaru		
Obese				Olive		Jeep		Suzuki		
Solid				Sallow		Kia		Toyota		
Thin						Land Rover		Volkswagen		
Eye Colour				Facial Hair		Mazda		Volvo		
Black		Green		Beard		Mercedes				
Blue		Grey		Moustache		Other (list)				
Brown		Hazel		None		Car Body Colour		Type of Vehicle		
				Description		Black		4 x 4		
						Blue - Dark / Light		Convertible		
						Brown		Coupe		
Hair Colour				Hair Style		Cream/Fawn		Hatchback		
Bald				Bald/Balding		Gold		Mini Bus/People Mover		
Black				Crew Cut		Green - Dark/Light		Panel Van		
Blonde/Fair/Sandy				Curly		Grey		Sedan		
Brown - Dark				Long		Red / Maroon		Green - Dark		
Brown - Light				Short		Silver		Truck		
Coloured/Bleach				Shoulder Length		White		Utility		
Grey				Straight		Yellow		Van		
Red/Ginger				Tied Back		Other		Other		
Clothing										
Item	Colour	Type	Markings		Registration Number					
Head Ware					Trailer Registration					
Coat/Jacket					Trailer Description					
Jumper					Car Accessories					
Shirt					Mag Wheels		Spoiler			
Pants					Roof Rack		Tinted Windows			
Shoes					Rear Louvre		Trailer			

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tattoos and Scars; Carrying Something; Vehicle Damage/Signs etc; Previously Observed Date/Time/When/Where