Community Safety
HANDBOOK



CITY OF Armadale

Acknowledgment of Country

The City of Armadale acknowledges the Traditional Owners and the Caretakers of the land upon which we stand, work and play.

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples of this land and their connection to the lands and the waters, as they are part of them spiritually and culturally.

We acknowledge their ancestors, the Elders past and present, who have led the way for us to follow in their footsteps and the emerging leaders of today and tomorrow.



Message from the Mayor

This booklet is designed to provide community safety tips and information to residents and local businesses in the City of Armadale. We will continue to work to ensure our streets and communities are safe, clean, connected, active, and welcoming for everyone.

Home and Community Safety is one of the City's four Social Priorities. Our Social Priority approach is determined through community engagement, backed up by robust research and data analysis. We work with stakeholders in delivering capacity building activities that empower residents and businesses to actively contribute to a safer and healthier community.

This booklet covers a multitude of areas that inform Community Safety. Total fire bans, animal welfare, personal safety, home safety and much more. There are numerous ways the City can support you, all of which are detailed in this booklet, alongside a range of additional support services that you can access. I encourage you to look after each other and play your part in keeping our community safe.

Thank you.

Mayor Ruth Butterfield

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PERSONAL SAFETY

Safety on the Street

Some general safety tips to enhance your personal safety:

- Always tell your family or friends where you are going and when you expect to return. If your plans change, let them know.
- Walk near the kerb, away from overgrown bushes and trees.
- Avoid taking short cuts or walking through deserted areas, especially at night.
- Avoid walking home alone at night.
- Walk facing oncoming traffic to prevent vehicles driving alongside you.
- Turn down the volume on your headphones so you can remain alert to your surroundings. Turn off noise cancelling.
- Have your keys ready when you approach your home or car to avoid a delay in entering.
- Lock your car doors after entering or leaving your car.

SAFETY TIP



Consider carrying a personal alarm and keep it in a place you can access easily.

Safety on Public Transport

The most important thing to remember is to plan. Always check your transport times and locations before you leave to try and minimise your wait time at bus stops, train stations and taxi ranks.

- Avoid isolated bus stops.
- Sit near the driver or another passenger.
- If you feel unsafe, do not hesitate to seek assistance.
- When on a train, avoid empty compartments or ones containing only one person.
- Stay awake and alert at all times.
- Keep close control over your bags and other belongings.
- Know where you are going - don't rely solely on the driver.
- Train carriages nearest to the driver are lit and safest at night.

For further information about safety on public transport, visit **transperth.wa.gov.au**



Safeguard your handbag

Handbag theft is an opportunistic crime. Handbag theft occurs every 6.2 seconds, and there is only a 28% chance of having your handbag returned to you!

- Keep your bag close to you at all times and zip it shut when you are not using it.
- Do not leave your handbag or wallet in your shopping trolley, or put it down on a counter while shopping.
- Be aware and alert of your surroundings.
- Be aware of distractions - it is a common tactic of thieves to distract you.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash on you.
- When on public transport, at cafes or cinemas, keep your handbag on your lap or over your shoulder.
- Keep a list of what you usually carry in your handbag for quick reference should you be a victim of handbag theft.

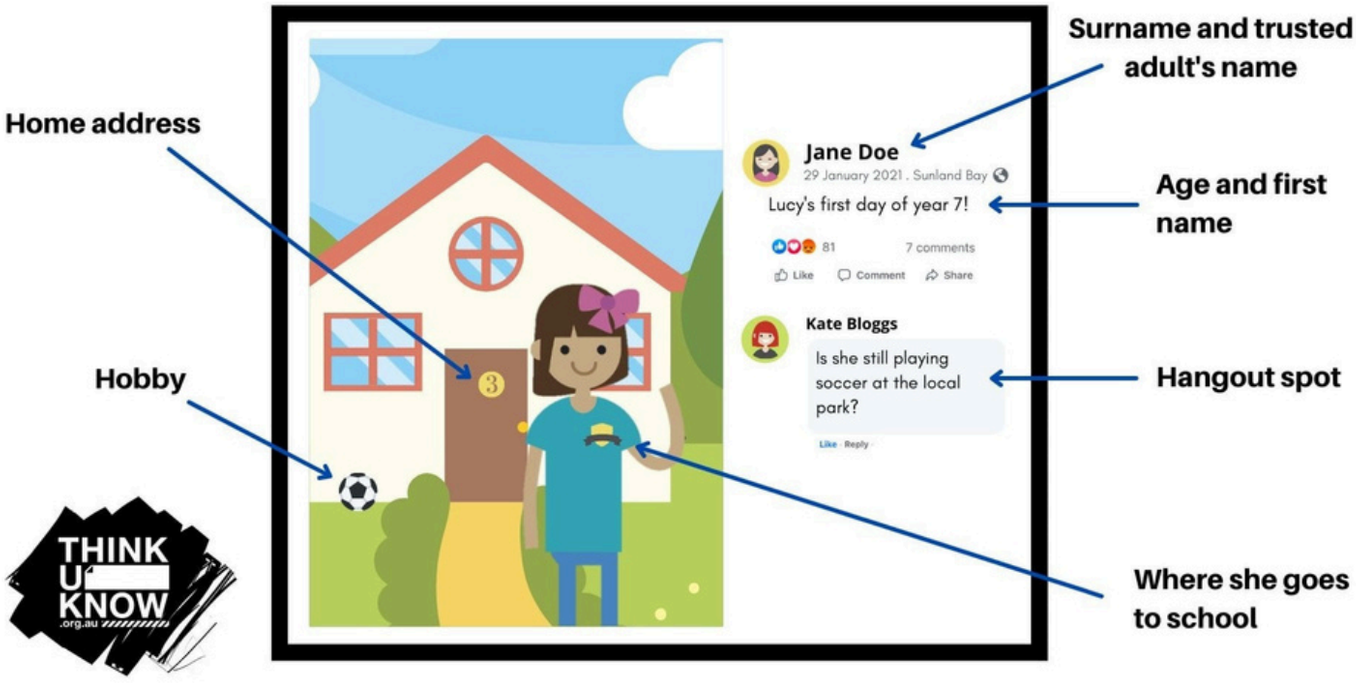
Bags that are most frequently targeted are those that are unzipped and placed behind the person, bags that hang over one shoulder, and bags that are loose or easy to pull off.

Handbags are a target of theft because they contain your whole life! Handbags often contain your wallet and all of your cash and credit cards, your phone, your keys and more. If someone were to steal your bag, they would have access to a lot of personal information and expensive items.



Social Media Safety

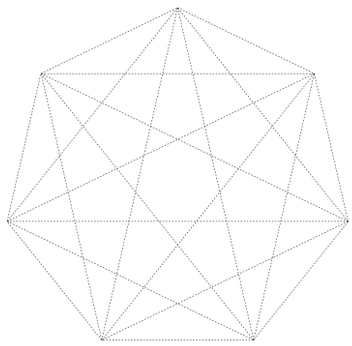
Be careful how much you share on social media. The below image shows just how much information can be gathered from an uploaded photo.



These tips can help:

- Cover or blur-out identifiers, such as your home address, child's name on their school bag, school logo, school name etc.
- Use strong privacy settings on your account.
- Only share images of your child with people you know and trust.
- Review your FRIENDS and FOLLOWERS on all social media accounts and remove anyone you don't know.

For more information on social media safety visit **esafety.gov.au** and **thinkuknow.org.au**.





Contactless Payments

The convenience of contactless cards means that they are an easy target for thieves. Transactions up to $100 can be made without a PIN or signature required - there is no way to authenticate the card holder.

- Never lend your debit or credit card to anyone.
- Secure your cards at all times.
- Never leave your purse or wallet in your car while shopping.
- Report lost or stolen cards to your bank immediately.
- Always check your account statements to make sure no unauthorised transactions have been made.



Report any fraudulent activity to Police on **131 444** or
Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000**.

Cyber Safety

Over 94,000 cybercrimes were reported to law enforcement through ReportCyber last year, which is around one every 6 minutes (Australian Signals Directorate, 2023). The annual combined losses of reported scams were over $3 billion in 2022, a substantial increase compared with the year prior (ACCC 2023).

The top 5 cybercrime types targeting Australians:

1. Identity Theft: cyber criminals actively seek to compromise the identity of their victims, which they sell to other malicious actors, or use this to open bank accounts, apply for credit cards, or purchase goods online.

2. Online fraud and shopping scams: this involves tricking people into paying for goods and services that are never delivered.

3. Bulk extortion: cyber criminals contact hundreds of victims a day by phone or email, and create a situation in which the victim is pressured into handing over money (eg. pretending to be the Australian Taxation Office threatening to issue a warrant in relation to unpaid taxes).

4. Online romance scams: cyber criminals often prey on vulnerable people. Scammers will have conversations and form relationships with people through popular dating apps. Once they have built a sense of trust, they start making requests for money.

5. Wire fraud and business email compromise: cyber criminals exploit the trust between businesses and their suppliers to divert money into their accounts.



Image: Freepik.com

You can help protect yourself against common cybercrimes by:

- Limiting the amount of personal information that you post online, including about your friends and family.
- Being suspicious of any unsolicited requests for personal information or urgent requests for money - whether by phone or email.
- Never giving someone remote access to your computer.
- Researching websites before making payment for goods and services.
- Thinking carefully before clicking on links and attachments.
- Checking your privacy settings on social networking sites.
- Only accepting friend requests from people you actually know.
- Using strong passwords and changing them regularly.



PASSWORDS: Make sure you have strong passwords, a passphrase is even better! Never re-use the same password across multiple online accounts. Use a 2- factor authentication, like an SMS code or fingerprint is also strongly encouraged.



SCAM MESSAGES (PHISHING): Think twice before clicking on weblinks in emails, messages and social posts. If you receive an email or text message that asks for your personal details, your password, or bank details - just delete it.



UPDATES: When you get a reminder to update your computer, phone or applications, you should do it promptly. Even better - set it to auto-update. This will help you protect your information and identity from cyber criminals that are always looking to exploit weaknesses in software.



PUBLIC WI-FI: Be wary when using public Wi-Fi. It is possible for others to see what you are doing over public Wi-Fi networks. Make sure not to do online banking, online shopping, or send sensitive information.

Australian Government agencies will never call you and request access to your computer, or threaten to arrest you if you don't make immediate payment of debt.
If in doubt, hang up the call, identify a publicly available number for the department or agency that the caller has claimed to be from. Do not call back on any number provided by the caller or observed via caller ID.

To find out more or to make a report, visit the Australian Cybercrime Online Network (ACRORN) website at **acorn.gov.au or visit www.scamwatch.gov.au.**

Family and Domestic Violence

Family and domestic violence is violent, threatening or controlling behaviour in an intimate relationship that causes a person to feel fear, physical harm and/or psychological harm.

This can include physical, verbal, emotional, sexual or psychological abuse; neglect; financial abuse; stalking; harm to animal or property; restricting your spiritual or cultural participation; and exposing children to the effects of these behaviours.

Family and Domestic Violence Support and Advice

If you are in immediate danger, call 000.

1800 Respect: A 24 hour national sexual assault, family and domestic violence counselling line. **1800 737 732**

Lifeline: Anyone across Australia experiencing personal crisis or thinking about suicide can call. **13 11 14**

Kids Help Line: Free, private and confidential telephone and online counselling service specifically for young people aged between 5 -25. **1800 551 800**

Mensline Australia: A 24 hour support for men and boys who are dealing with family and relationship difficulties. **1300 789 978**

Women's Domestic Violence Helpline: A 24 hour support and counselling service for women experiencing family and domestic violence. **1800 007 339**

Men's Domestic Violence Helpline: A 24 hour service for men who are concerned about their violent and abusive behaviours. **1800 000 599**

Waullo Dawn is a Family and Domestic Violence hub that provides support services to victim-survivors in the Armadale Area. For more information and referrals email: **reception.hub@hopecs.org.au.**

1 in 5 women and about 1 in 18 men have experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or previous partner since the age of 15 (ABS 2023).

3 in 10 assault hospitalisations were due to family and domestic violence (AIHW, 2023), 73% (4,700) were for females and 27% (1,700) were for males.

Women with disability experience higher rates of family domestic violence than women without disability (ABS, 2021).

On average, one woman is killed by an intimate partner every 10 days (AIC NHMP, 2022).

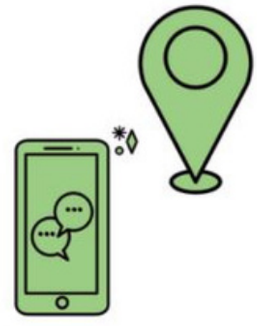
Coercive Control

Coercive control is a form of domestic violence, covering different types of abuse - physical, sexual, psychological, emotional and/or financial. Usually it's a pattern of behaviour, where the abuser uses subtle tactics to rob their victim of independence and freedom.

Coercive control is a strategic form of ongoing oppression used to instill fear. The abuser will use various tactics as a method of control. Between 60 and 80% of women seeking assistance for abuse have experienced coercive control.

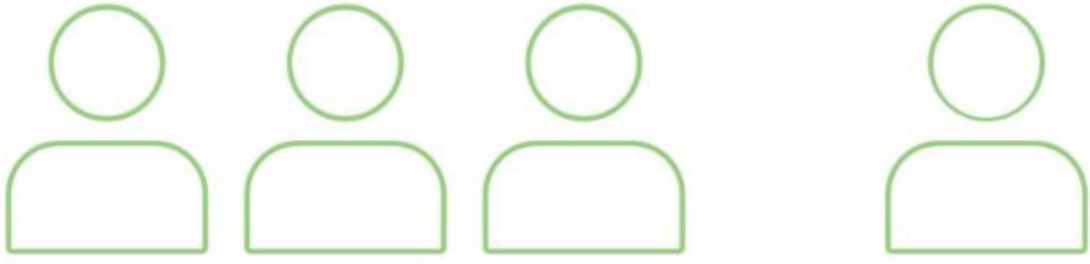
Some behaviours to keep an eye out for include when your partner:

- Isolates you from your family and friends
- Controls your appearance
- Limits your access to money
- Tracks your location
- Tracks your social media use
- Sabotages your work



Getting out of an abusive relationship can be complex. With some planning, you can make a safe exit from the situation:

- Maintain communication with your support systems whenever possible.
- Call a help or advice line.
- Practice how to get out safely, especially if you have children.
- Have a safety plan prepared. Plan where to go, who to stay with, and what you need to take.
- If you are in immediate danger, call **000**.
- Aboriginal Family Legal Service: a not-for-profit organisation that assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to live free from family violence and sexual assault. Phone **(08) 9355 1502**; free call **1800 469 246.**



Child Safety

Keeping children safe from injury, neglect, bullying, violence and sexual abuse is everyone's responsibility.

You can reduce risk of harm to your child by doing the following:

- Ensure your child's car restraint is set up correctly for the age of your child. Kidsafe can check this for you.
- Teach your child that not all dogs are friendly and to not approach unfamiliar dogs. Supervise around all dogs, even family dogs.
- Always closely supervise children around water (including baths, pools, ponds, and tanks) and enrol them in swimming lessons.
- Learn First Aid and CPR, specifically how to resuscitate a young child.
- Teach your child your phone number and how to phone **000**.
- Support healthy risk-taking so they build confidence to manage their own safety and face challenges.
- Ask child related workers to show their Working with Children Check card.
- Encourage children to use computers and devices where you can supervise them such as in the kitchen or family room.
    - Monitor what they are doing online and when they are communicating with other people over the internet.
    - Use parental control options on their devices and on your smart TVs.
    - Check and research whether the apps, games and websites are child-appropriate before use.
    - Attend an e-Safety Commissioner webinar for parents.
- Support your child when they have small problems so they know you will be there when they have big problems.
- Keep your child's school informed of any Family Court matters or Restraining Orders and keep your emergency contact details current.



28 percent of Australians experienced child sexual abuse and 32% experienced physical abuse (source: acms.au)

- Learn about Protective Behaviours - Teach your child correct names for their body parts and how to listen to their body's 'early warning signs'.
- Help your child establish a team of trusted adults that will be available to them to listen, believe and take action to help and support them. This can include teachers, coaches, family friends and other caring adults.
- Always respect children as individual people and listen to their views and concerns.

Kidsafe WA: **www.kidsafewa.com.au**
National Association for Prevention of Child abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN): **www.napcan.org.au**
Kids Helpline: **kidshelpline.com.au** or Ph: **1800 551 800**
National Office for Child Safety: **www.childsafety.gov.au**
eSafety Commissioner: **www.esafety.gov.au**
Royal Lifesaving: **www.royallifesaving.com.au**
Protective Behaviours: **www.protectivebehaviours.org**

One third of deaths of children aged 1 -14 is caused by injury (source: ABS)



27 children aged 0 - 4 years and 12 children aged 5 - 14 years drown in Australia every year (source: Royal Life Saving Australia)





Senior Safety

The City of Armadale has a significant and growing population of older people. By 2026, people aged over 50 will make up 26% of the City's population.

The information below will help you stay home safe and healthy:

Commonwealth Home Support Program
The Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) program can help you stay in your home. For example, assistance can include such things as: home help, like cleaning and shopping; delivered meals; gardening, home maintenance, and home modifications. For more information, please visit **https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/consumer-protection/help-stay-home-advice-seniors.**

Injury Matters
Injury Matters through its Stay On Your Feet program, provides information and strategies for older adults to prevent falls (For more information, please visit **www.injurymatters.org.au/programs/stay-on-your-feet/information-for-over-60s)**

Move your body	**Remove Hazards**	**Improve your health**
Build your balance	Make your house safer	Check your medication
Strengthen your legs	Check your eyesight	Keep a healthy mind
	Wear safe footwear	Fuel your body

Become a Community Champion/volunteer
The City of Armadale Community Champions are local residents who are passionate about keeping their neighbourhood clean, healthy, safe and friendly. It is part of the City of Armadale 'Growing Our Neighbourhoods' program which is designed to promote a safer, more connected and vibrant community. The aim is to encourage residents to connect with and support each other.

Do you have neighbours who are seniors?

Knowing your neighbours improves community safety, especially for those who live alone.
Get to know your neighbours so you can help each other out when you need it.
Meet Your Neighbours and Know Your Street postcards are available from the City of Armadale.

Elder Abuse

Elder abuse can be defined as "a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person". Elder abuse can take various forms such as financial, physical, psychological and sexual. It can also be the result of intentional or unintentional neglect.

Reduce the risks by:



Staying socially connected: join a club or group and stay in touch with friends.



Maintaining independence: take up new activities and meet new people.



Staying physically and mentally healthy: exercise daily, eat a balanced diet, visit your GP regularly, join a book club, or take up a short course.



Staying emotionally healthy: ask for help if you are feeling down or anxious or talk to your GP.

It is estimated that 1 in 6 people 60 years and older experienced some form of abuse (World Health Organisation, 2022).

1 in 2 people who abuse elders is a family member (AIHW, 2023).

Plan for your future security:

- Decide what you want for your future if you become frail or incapacitated.
- Discuss your wishes with trusted family or friends.
- Get independent advice before signing legal documents, including your will.
- Stay aware of your financial position - keep your banking details in a safe and secure place.

Be aware of your rights:

- You have the right to be safe, protected, valued and respected.
- You have the right to make your own decisions, such as where you live and your finances. If you are feeling pressured to make a decision or sign a document, stop and seek independent advice.

There are several support services available for people experiencing elder abuse:



- National Elder Abuse Helpline: **1300 651 192**
- WA Elder Abuse Helpline: **1300 724 679**
- Advocare: **1800 655 566**
- Council on the Ageing WA: **9472 0104**
- Office of the Public Advocate: **1300 858 455**
- Senior's Rights Advocacy Services: **1300 650 579.**

You can access the Department of Communities Elder Abuse Strategy, other information and resources at **www.communities.wa.gov.au/elderabuse**



Alcohol and Drug Safety

Drinking alcohol and taking drugs can be harmful for you and the people around you. Choosing not to use alcohol and/or drugs is always the safest option. However, knowing the things that can go wrong, how to stay safe and where to get help are important things to be aware of.

Alcohol and illicit drugs are the number one cause of violence and anti-social behaviour in Australia. Drinking alcohol and taking drugs can have both short term and long term effects on your judgement, feelings, behaviour and your physical health.



Where to get help?

In an emergency call **000** or visit your local emergency department.
Support is available through many services operating across WA. If you are concerned about your own or another person's alcohol or drug use, you can get help by calling:

- Here For You: Support Line for Alcohol, Drugs and/or Mental Health: **1800 437 348**
- Alcohol and Drug Support Line: **(08) 9442 5000** or **1800 198 024**
- Parent and Family Drug Support Line: **(08) 9442 5050** or **1800 653 203**
- South East Metro Community Alcohol and Drug Service- Armadale **(08) 9399 5344**
- Uniting Care West ATTACH: In-home Parent Drug and Alcohol Service: **(08) 9239 0920**
- Wungening Aboriginal Corporation- Armadale Hub: **(08) 6558 1000**
- Pindari Restoration House: **0427 386 381**
- Drug and Alcohol Youth Service (DAYS): **(08) 9222 6300**
- Harry Hunter Rehabilitation Centre: **(08) 9234 5600**
- Bridge Programme- Alcohol and Drug Recovery Services: **(08) 9227 8086**
- Hope Community Services Youth Street Van: **(08) 6496 0001 or 1800 124 684.**

While there is no safe level of drinking, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommends following the Alcohol Guidelines below:

- Healthy men and women should drink no more than 10 standard drinks a week and no more than 4 standard drinks on any one day.
- People under the age of 18 years should not drink alcohol.
- Women who are pregnant, planning a pregnant or breastfeeding should not drink alcohol.

For more information on these guidelines and to find out what a standard drink is, visit:
https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-advice/alcohol



Tips to stay safe:

- If drinking alcohol, follow the Alcohol Guidelines above to reduce the risks to your health.
- Do not consume alcohol and/or drugs if you are supervising children.

Don't drink or drug drive

- If you plan to drink alcohol and/or take drugs, it's best not to drive or ride any kind of motor vehicle at all. Your blood alcohol level should remain below 0.05.
- Don't accept a lift from someone who has drunk alcohol and/or taken drugs. Arrange alternative transport.

Staying safe around water.

- Do not enter water or go swimming if you have drunk alcohol and/or taken any drugs.
- Participate in aquatic activities before drinking alcohol and/or taking drugs. Do no re-enter the water afterwards.

Don't mix alcohol and drugs.

- Choosing to not use drugs is always the safest option. However, if you and/or someone you know chooses to use drugs, do not mix with other drugs or alcohol.
- Mixing drugs is dangerous and the effect/s can be unpredictable.

Be aware of drink spiking

- Don't leave your drink unattended or accept drinks from strangers. Buy or pour your own drink to avoid sharing drinks.



For more information visit:
www.alcoholthinkagain.com.au
www.drugaware.com.au
www.adf.org.au
www.royallifesaving.com.au
www.wa.gov.au/organisation/road-safety-commission/drink-and-drug-driving

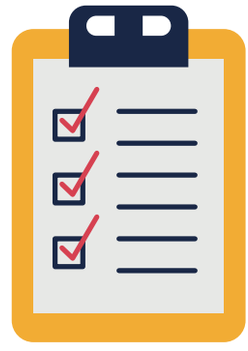
HOME SAFETY

Home Security Checklist

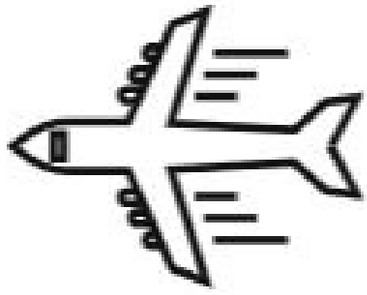
The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimates that there are over 200,000 break-ins or attempted break-ins in Australia each year (ABS, 2023).

By introducing some simple yet practical security precautions into your everyday life, you can take an active role in reducing crime and help to keep your home and community safe.

- Are your trees and shrubs trimmed so it's hard for burglars to hide behind?
- Do you have locks and deadbolds/deadlocks fitted?
- Do you have security screens on doors and windows?
- Do your windows have key-locks or security devices?
- Does your house have an automatic light timer or sensor lights?
- Are the entrances to your house well lit?
- Is your house fitted with an alarm?
- Are there fences and gates on your property to restrict access?
- Is the garage/shed kept locked?
- Are your tools, ladders and rubbish bins stored away?
- Is your meter box and letterbox locked?
- Are your contents and valuables engraved or marked for easy identification?
- Is your house number visible so your house can be quickly identified?
- Have you photographed contents and valuables and recorded serial numbers?
- Do you have a dog?
- Do you have all valuables out of sight?
- Do you know your neighbours?



Safety and Holidays



Home security can be easily forgotten amidst the excitement and rush of organising a holiday. Here is a checklist to help reduce your risk of burglary while you are away.

- Have you let your neighbours know?
- Have you given your neighbours dates and emergency contacts?
- Are you registered with the Vacant Premises Advice page?
- Do your doors and windows lock securely?
- Have you arranged for mail to be held, redirected or collected for you?
- Are your deliveries such as newspapers cancelled?
- Have you asked a neighbour to bring your rubbish and recycling bins out?
- Are your house keys left with a trusted friend or neighbour?
- Do you have someone organised to cut your lawn and water your garden?
- Are your garden tools and ladders locked away?
- Have you turned down the ringing volume on your telephone?
- Consider asking your neighbours to park a second car in your driveway
- Is your pet door properly secured?

Think twice before you advertise your holiday on social media or as your telephone answering machine message. You never know who could be reading or listening.



Pool and Spa Safety

Drowning happens fast. Never let your children get too far, or allow children under five years of age to stray from arms reach. Accidents due to neglect happen quickly - constant supervision prevents this.

A building permit is required for the construction, erection, assembly or placement of a swimming pool and/or spa that is capable of containing a depth of water of more than 300mm.

If you are thinking of installing a swimming pool or spa, read the Government of Western Australia Building Commission fact sheet 'Thinking of Installing a Swimming Pool or Spa?' which provides general information about building approvals. This can be found at **commerce.wa.gov.au**.

The City of Armadale is required to inspect swimming pool and spa fencing once within four years. If you would like to book an appointment, request an additional inspection, or report a safety issue please contact the City of Armadale.

HANDY TIPS

- Always close pool and spa gates
- Ensure the gate self- closes and self-latches from all positions.
- Remove all climbable items from the pool or spa fence.
- Check on dangerous skimmer boxes.



FIRE SAFETY

Emergency Preparedness

An emergency can include bushfire, severe storms, flooding, and major road transport crashes. Emergency management procedures are paramount. The City works in partnership with the community, agencies and other stakeholders in order to address risks that may affect the community, property and the environment.

How can I get information about an emergency?

- Department of Fire and Emergency Services: dfes.wa.gov.au
- ABC Television or ABC Local Radio
- Bureau of Meteorology website: bom.gov.au

Emergencies can happen at any time, anywhere and without warning. You can take easy steps to protect yourself, the people you love, and the things you value the most.

Create an Emergency Plan

- Include the names of all household members and their important information.
- Include important contact numbers including members of your support network, and contacts who live out of the area.
- List your important services including company, account number and contact details.
- Create a medical plan including contact information of your regular doctors and local hospital.
- List any medical conditions you have, and a plan to manage this condition during an emergency.
- List your current medications.
- Include information regarding your Will and insurances.
- List your important items.
- Create an animal plan.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services has several templates available on their website which are helpful.
Visit **dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation/Pages/survivalplans.aspx** to access these templates.

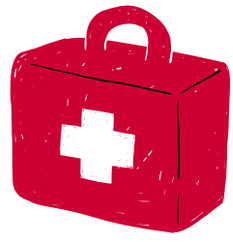
Animal Welfare in an Emergency

It is important to have a plan of action for how you will keep your animals safe during an emergency.

- Determine your triggers for evacuation
- Determine evacuation routes, planning for several different directions
- Determine how you will transport different animals
- Determine where animals can stay during an emergency
- Determine how you will protect animals if they are unable to be evacuated
- Determine how you will maintain containment and provision of food and water

Make an Emergency Kit

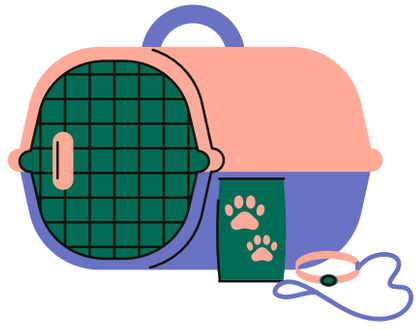
On high fire risk days, assemble essentials to take with you in case you must evacuate, including:



- At least three days of feed
- Leads, harnesses, muzzles, halters
- Animal carriers
- Vaccination records
- Any medications
- Ensure your animals always have a water supply that will last them at least five days.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services has several templates available on their website which are helpful.

Visit **dfes.wa.gov.au**



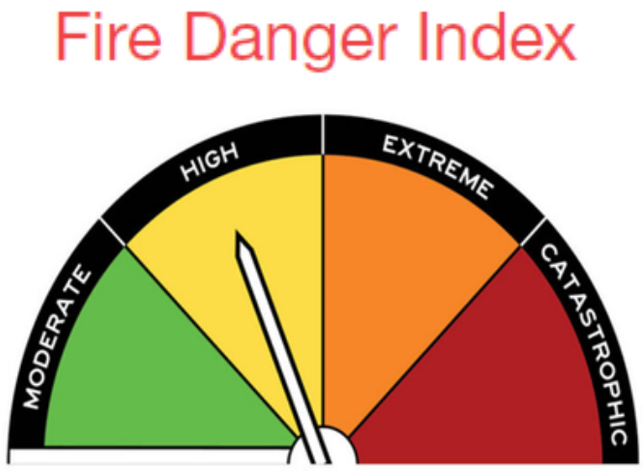
Total Fire Ban

A Total Fire Ban is declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) when a fire is likely to spread rapidly or if widespread fires are already burning and firefighting resources are stretched. It is declared when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property.
On a Total Fire Ban day, it is illegal to light an open-air fire or conduct any activity that could start a fire.

How do I check if there's a Total Fire Ban in place?

- Check the Emergency WA Website
- Call the TFB Hotline on **1800 709 355**
- Call 13 DFES on **133 337**
- Follow DFES on Facebook or Twitter
- Listen to ABC local radio and other media outlets
- Look for Local Government roadside Fire Danger Rating signs
- The City will publish a Total Fire Ban notice on the City of Armadale website and Facebook page.

If you see someone acting in a manner that breaches a total fire ban, contact the City of Armadale directly, or report via email or via the Total Fire Ban Hotline **(1800 709 355)**. If the behaviour is related to arson, report this to police immediately.
For more information, visit **dfes.wa.gov.au**.





Firebreaks and Burning Permits

The City of Armadale sends out its annual Fire-break and Hazard Reduction Notice every year. It is important that all property owners and occupants read this notice and make themselves familiar with the requirements.

Some key points to remember:

- All properties over 5000 square metres are required to have a firebreak.
- All properties less than 5000 square metres need to be clear of flammable materials.
- If you require a variation to the firebreak requirements, you must submit an application form.

Applying for a Fire Permit

A permit to burn (set fire to bush on land in the City of Armadale) is required for the burning of any bush, large quantities of garden rubbish or refuse.

You can apply for a Fire Permit from the City of Armadale Administration Building or by completing an application form and submitting this via email or in person at least three business days prior to the intended burn period.

The application form can be found on the City's website.



All properties over 5000 square metres are required to have a firebreak

Fire Safety in the Home

House fires can be prevented. House fires are often caused by negligence and accidents caused by the householder.

Common causes of house fires include:

- Kitchen stoves: Never leave the stove unattended when in use.
- Faulty wiring: Install safety switches and always use a qualified electrician.
- Faulty electrical appliances: Safely discard items with frayed cords.
- Electric blankets: Don't sleep with the blanket switched on.
- Candles: Don't leave lit candles unattended or sleep with them lit.
- Cigarettes: Don't smoke in bed, and make sure matches and cigarettes are kept out of reach of children.
- Flammable liquids: Always store flammables away from heaters and open fires.
- Home heaters: Don't dry clothing close to heaters or open fires.
- Clothes dryers: Clean lint filters after each use.
- Chimneys: Clean chimneys and flues regularly from built-up ash and soot.
- Power boards: Don't overload power boards, keep them free of dust and don't put items on top of them.
- Barbeques: Barbeques should always be used away from the home, tablecloths, or any plant and tree branches. Keep barbeques regularly maintained and cleaned.
- Check the gas bottle for leaks before use each time.



Cooking fires are among the most common types of house fires, causing between 40-50% of all residential fires (Detector Inspector, 2020).



Smoke Alarms

A small fire can engulf your home in five minutes. A working smoke alarm will warn you if a fire starts in your home, giving you and your loved ones time to escape.

Did you know:

- Smoke alarms need to be tested monthly to make sure they are working.
- Smoke alarms must be cleaned regularly to remove dust and cobwebs.
- All smoke alarms, regardless of type and power source, need to be completely replaced every 10 years.
- Smoke alarms should be located in all sleeping areas and in all paths of travel between sleeping areas and exits to the open air.
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services recommends a main- powered photoelectric smoke alarm.

Remember to change your smoke alarm battery on April 1st each year, 'April Fools Day'. DFES promotes this day as a reminder to regularly change smoke alarm batteries using a high-quality, long-life battery.

Spend a few minutes with your family and draw up an escape plan. Practice it regularly or at least once a year. Your escape plan should include:

- More than one way out of every room, including windows where possible.
- A safe and easy escape route for family members living with disability or who have special requirements.
- An escape route for your pets.
- A safe meeting place for everyone outside.

Responding to a Fire in Your Home

If a fire does start in your home and you can't put it out safely, follow these steps:

- Contain the fire and slow it from spreading by closing the door to the room if possible.
- Alert and assist other people in the house to leave if it is safe to do so.
- Keep down low and close to the floor to avoid breathing in smoke.
- Put your escape plan into action.
- Before you open a door, feel it with the back of your hand. If it's hot, use another way to get out.
- Leave your home and head to the safe place agreed on your plan.
- Dial Triple Zero **(000)** immediately and alert your neighbours as necessary.
- Remember, never go back into a burning house under any circumstances.



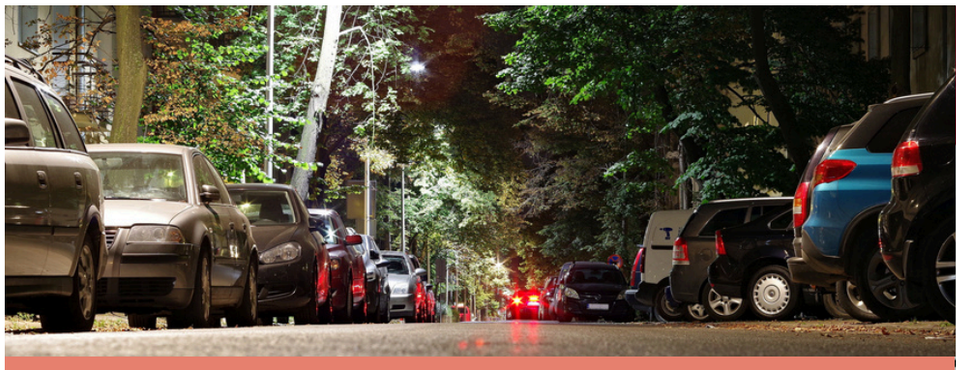
VEHICLE SAFETY

Motor Vehicles

By simply removing valuable items from display and locking your vehicle, you significantly reduce the likelihood of being a victim of crime. Most thieves break into cars because they see something inside that they want.

You can prevent theft from your motor vehicle through the following actions:

- Close all windows and lock all doors before leaving your car unattended.
- Never leave your keys in the ignition and don't have personal address tags attached to your keys.
- Do not hide spare keys in your car.
- Lock your car when paying for fuel.
- Never leave valuable items in your car.
- Don't leave registration papers, drivers licence or other papers/cards in an unattended car.
- Don't leave loose change within view.
- Park in a secure and well-lit area - off the street and in a lockable garage if possible.





SAFETY TIP:
Stolen registration plates from your vehicle can be fitted on other cars. This is then used for fuel theft, traffic offences, and other crimes. Anti-theft screws are easy to fit and available from many hardware stores at a low cost.

Motor Vehicle Theft



Bumper Sticker Safety

Car stickers and decals are a fun way to accessorise your car to match your personality and may seem innocent to the vehicle owner; however, they reveal personal information that can give criminals an edge, such as where your children go to school and how many people are in your family.

If you buy decals that show off your family's occupations or hobbies, it could tip off who is home, who is not and when. Stickers for local children's sporting teams can tell a potential criminal exactly where to find your kids. Stickers for your children's school tells criminals exactly what school they attend.

Criminals are going to look for a crime of opportunity, so they are going to look for people, homes and vehicles that they perceive are going to be an easy target.

Be mindful of the information car stickers and decals can give that enable criminals to learn about you and your family.



Hooning

A hoon driver is anyone who drives at a very high speed or in a manner that is considered highly dangerous or antisocial. Examples include intentionally causing tyres to lose traction, causing a vehicle to make excessive noise or smoke, exceeding the speed limit by 45 km/h or more, and engaging in a race or speed trial on a public road or in a public space.

Vehicles that are being driven in a reckless or dangerous manner, such as doing burnouts or racing with another vehicle, can be impounded under the Road Traffic Act 1974.

How to Report a Hoon:
If the incident is occurring now or causing danger, report the incident immediately to the Police Assistance Centre on **131 444**. You can also report a hoon online at **police.wa.gov.au.** You can also take photographic or video evidence to any Police Station.

What to Report:

- Time, date and location
- Vehicle registration
- Vehicle make, model, colour and any other notable features
- A description of the driver and/or passengers if possible
- A description of the behaviour (speeding, burn outs, drag racing, and any damage caused
- A description of the traffic and weather conditions at the time of the incident

Remember - the only way a hoon may be convicted, if Police don't witness the incident, is for you to attend court.



Bicycle Safety

Together, we can reduce bike theft.

It is estimated that between 9,000 - 15,000 bicycles are stolen in WA each year and the problem has been growing in the community over the past decade.

Crime Stoppers WA has launched a new service to help Police Officers identify stolen bicycles and reunite them with their rightful owner. 'Bikelinc' is a free and confidential service that allows police to return bikes to their owners.

If your bike is lost or stolen, notify Police on **131 444** or use a **Bikelinc** report form. If you have already created a **Bikelinc** profile, update the status of your bike to 'stolen'. If someone other than the Police has found your bike, they may contact you to return the bike.



Over 21,000 bikes are already listed. Is yours one of them?

Bikelinc connects you, your bike, Police and the cycling community. Police can return your bike quickly and easily, you can help reduce bike theft, join a community of bike enthusiasts, and you can easily check if a bike for sale is registered as safe, lost or stolen.

Connect Your Bike:

- Locate your bike's serial number. This is normally found underneath the bottom bracket. Write down or take a photo of this number.
- Make a note of your bike's brand, type, colour and any other distinguishing features.
- Sign into **Bikelinc**, and follow the prompts to create an account.
- In the gallery, upload any images of your bike which will help with identification. Include a photo of the frame serial number.
- In the status field, select the appropriate option = Safe, Lost or Stolen.
- Add the bike's home address details.
- Select the bike type, brand and model by clicking on the arrows to reveal a drop-down menu of options.
- Click 'Done' once complete.

For more information, and to register your bike visit **bikelinc.com.au**



COMMUNITY SAFETY
Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch aims to create a safe and secure community by encouraging people to get to know their neighbours and report any unusual behaviour in and around their area. Neighbourhood Watch is a community safety and awareness program aimed at reducing the incidence of preventable and opportunistic crime.

Neighbourhood Watch combats crime in the most effective way - before it starts - by reducing the opportunities for crime to occur. Your neighbours know who you are, what type of car you drive, and may be the first person to notice a suspicious person at your door or window. A Police Officer is not always aware of normal comings and goings in your street.

You and your neighbours are in a position to observe strangers and strange behaviour and report these suspicions to Police. By simply getting to know your neighbours around you, you will be well positioned to recognise someone or something that's suspicious.

Contact Armadale Neighbourhood Watch: You can contact Armadale Neighbourhood Watch to receive safety information and resources, find out about upcoming events in your area, and to get involved.

Phone**: 0439 397 019**
Email: **nwatch@armadalenhw.com.au**

SERVICES

Ranger Services

The City of Armadale Ranger Services are responsible for multiple services. These include:

- **Animal control:** The Rangers can assist with cat and dog registrations and renewals, lost cats and dogs, dogs in public places including where you can exercise your dog and dog prohibited areas, dangerous dogs and restricted breeds, find out about dog barking and dog barking diaries, and nuisance cats.

- **Parking:** Enforcing parking local laws to ensure safety and convenience for all members of the public. Rangers assist with where you can park and what each parking sign means, parking around schools and keeping children safe, parking infringement and appeals, ACROD parking bays, and abandoned and impounded vehicles.

- **Fire hazard reduction:** Ensuring the installation and maintenance of firebreaks and that residents comply with the City's Annual Fire Hazard Reduction Notice.

- **Off-Road vehicles:** The Rangers assist with where you can ride an off-road vehicle, how to report nuisance off-road vehicles, and key definitions.



Animal Management Facility

The City of Armadale operates an Animal Management Facility.

Once a cat or dog comes into the Rangers possession, they are checked for a microchip. We will always try to reunite pet and owner. If we are unable to get hold of an owner or a dog is unable to be secured, it may be impounded. Impounding is always a last resort. Impounded animals are displayed on the City's website.

If you have lost a cat or dog, please contact Ranger Services on **9394 5000**.
The following is required by law for the animal to be released:

- Registration
- Microchipping
- Sterilisation (cats only).

The facility is open by appointment only. It is located at Capstick Lane, Kelmscott.

There are impound fees which must be paid in full on collection of the pet. Discounts and part payments are not offered. For information on fees, visit the City's website, or phone the Rangers Department on **9394 5000**.

The City does not rehome animals direct from the pound. All unclaimed animals fit for adoption are given to animal rescue and rehoming organisations. If you want to rescue or re-home an animal, please contact an organisation in your area to discuss adoption.





Community Development

The City's Community Development Team can assist with community safety in the following ways:

Home Safety Audits

The City conducts home safety audits based on the principle of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). There is also a self-checklist on the City's website and included in this document at page 21.

Growing our Neighbourhood

The Community Development Team coordinates 'Growing Our Neighbourhoods' - an initiative based on increasing neighbourhood connection to provide a sense of belonging, reduce isolation, increase safety and offer community support. This includes hosting Meet Your Street Barbecues, running capacity building sessions and workshops, and providing a Neighbourhood Toolkit and other resources.



Meet your Neighbours

Did you know that the best way to enhance safety in your neighbourhood is to know your neighbours, exchange contact details and help each other out?
The City may provide a rebate of up to $100 to help you organise a community event in your neighbourhood.

Street Meet and Greet

The City in collaboration with Armadale Neighbourhood Watch and WA Police conducts periodic community safety events in hot spots recommended by the Police or residents. This gives residents the opportunity to get to know their neighbours and have a chat with the local Police and City staff. Please contact the City if you would like to have a Street Meet and Greet in your street or neighbourhood.

Meet Your Neighbourhoods and Know Your Street Postcard



The project is designed to promote the principle of 'natural surveillance' or 'eyes on the street' as a crime prevention mechanism. It gives residents the opportunity to get involved in a simple practical act that can help to build positive relationships and make their street look and feel safer. If you would like to participate in the program, please contact the City for some postcards to be delivered to your home address for you to share with your neighbours.

Security Incentive Scheme

The City offers a Security Incentive Scheme, which offers residents a rebate of up to $200 ($250 for valid Concession Card holders) if they install a security measure in their home. This includes sensor lights, security doors and CCTV/alarm systems. Further information and the application form can be found on the City's website.

Hardship Resource Directory



The City's Hardship Resource Directory provides contact information to assist people with emergency and support services. This is available for free at City of Armadale Facilities and is available in either a small, pocket-size or a larger size with easier to read print. It can also be downloaded from our website.

Home and Community Safety workshops

The City runs workshops for community members periodically throughout the year on topics including Cyber Safety workshops for the whole community or targeted specifically at seniors or parents, and Protective Behaviours workshops for parents and carers. Contact the City or see our website for upcoming events.

The City supports Armadale Neighbourhood Watch. For more information on Neighbourhood Watch and how to get involved, visit page 37 of this document.

For further information or to contact the Community Development Team, email **info@armadale.wa.gov.au** or phone **9394 5000.**

Graffiti Removal

The City manages graffiti through a multi-strategy approach:

- Proactively report graffiti
- Ensuring rapid removal of graffiti from City facilities
- Providing information and support for graffiti prevention and removal
- Encouraging graffiti deterrents to residents
- Promoting community awareness, ownership and responsibility
- Working directly with WA Police to ensure a coordinated approach to identifying and catching graffiti vandals.

Graffiti removal from private property

Graffiti removal from private residential or private commercial property is the responsibility of the property owner/manager.

A volunteer community group called the Civic Pride Action Group removes gaffiti free of charge from private properties and small locally owned businessess within the City of Armadale.

To report graffiti on City-owned property or assets, or to request the services of Civic Pride Action Group, call **9394 5000**.

Report graffiti

Graffiti vandalism that has occurred on your property, private property or public property can be reported through the online form: submission.police.wa.gov.au/report_graffiti/

Contact police on 131 444 if the graffiti is racially or religiously offensive / threatening.

In Australia, graffiti vandalism is viewed by the community as one of the top two neighbourhood problems. It is estimated that the cost of Western Australian State Government Agencies, Local Government Authorities, infrastructure owners, businesses and private property owners in excess of $25 million each year in clean-up costs.

Graffiti prevention and deterrents

Some ways to deter graffiti include:

- Use anti-graffiti coatings
- Consider different styles of fencing
- Install shrubs and creepers rather than fencing
- Deter vandals from re-offending with the rapid removal of graffiti
- Limit access to areas that are likely targets of graffiti
- Minimise natural ladders that provide vandals access to upper level targets
- Use surfaces that are difficult to apply paint or markers to, such as rough and uneven surfaces and non-porous materials
- Install security lighting and consider the installation of CCTV cameras.

The most likely targets of graffiti include blank walls, elevated locations that are accessible to offenders, high visibility locations, areas that are obscured from view so offenders are unlikely to be seen, surfaces that are easy to apply spray, and areas that are difficult to clean so that the offender's tag will remain in place for some time.



Litter Reporting

Do you feel frustrated by seeing litter lying around your street or park? Then why not adopt that spot and volunteer to help keep your spot litter-free. Individuals, community groups, businesses or school communities can volunteer with the Adopt-a-Spot program and contribute to a cleaner environment.

You will receive free resources to help, insurance cover if you need it, and an adoption certificate.

Register now at **Keep Australia Beautiful**.

Illegal Dumping:
Illegal dumping is deliberate littering in streets, parks, building site bins, vacant land, bushland, reserves, industrial and building sites, and outside shopping centres and median strips. You can report illegal dumping by calling **9394 5000.**

Please provide as much detail as possible including registration plates, make of vehicle and description of offender and items dumped.

Abandoned Shopping Trolleys:
All abandoned trolleys should be reported to the retailer to collect them. A list of retailers and their contact information can be found on the City's website.



Noise Reporting

If you have a concern about noise in your neighbourhood, the City recommends you first approach your neighbour to explain how the noise is affecting you. Often your neighbours may not even realise that they are disturbing other residents.

Negotiate with your neighbour and keep each other informed of any potentially noisy events such as parties. If you wish to have your formal complaint investigated by the City, please complete and return a Noise Investigation Request, which can be found on the City's website.

The City's Health Services can assist with enquiries about the following types of noise sources, and investigate complaints regarding:

- Stereo noise and musical instruments
- Construction noise, commercial and industrial noise
- Hand held equipment (including lawn mowers and hammers)
- Roosters and other noisy birds
- Air conditioner units and other equipment noise.



The City cannot investigate noise associated with aircraft noise, rail noise, road noise, antisocial behaviour, certain community events, and loud parties. For antisocial behaviour and parties please contact WA Police on **131 444**.

For more information, please visit **armadale.wa.gov.au/noise**.



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Reporting Suspicious and Criminal Activity

The WA Police rely on information from the public to identify problem areas and to solve crimes. By taking action and reporting crime, you are helping yourself and protecting others.

If you see any suspicious or criminal activity, report it to Police immediately. Do not put your safety at risk by confronting offenders.

When you make a Police report, you can assist by providing as much information as you can such as:

- The date and time of the suspicious activity or incident
- The location and address
- Vehicle details (e.g. colour, type, make, model, and registration)
- A description of the suspicious person, including gender, age, appearance, clothing and other distinguishing features.



WA Police Contact Numbers

WA Police Assistance Centre: 131 444
Report all suspicious behaviour and incidents to the Police as and when it occurs, including those that require Police attendance.

Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000
You can report information about any crime or suspicious activities to Crime Stoppers and remain anonymous if you wish.

Only call these numbers in life-threatening situations when urgent Police, Fire or Ambulance assistance is required.

Emergency 000

Emergency 112
(mobile phone)

Emergency TTY 106
(hearing impaired)

SMSAssist© is a text messaging service for people who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, which can be used for contacting the WA Police Force and requesting assistance.
To use SMSAssist© dial **0403 277 478.**

Emergency+ Smartphone App

Emergency+ is a national app developed by Australia's Emergency Services to help people call the right number at the right time, anywhere in Australia. The app uses a mobile phone's GPS functionality so that the caller can provide emergency services with their location information.

emergencyplus

Save the app that could save your life

Other Important Contacts

State Emergency Services (SES): 132 500
For assistance during a storm, cyclone, earthquake, flood or tsunami, and urgent, temporary property repairs that you cannot fix yourself.

Main Roads Western Australia: 138 138
To report faults and problems on the Main Roads network.

Western Power (electricity): 131 351
To report electricity faults and emergencies, power interruptions and estimated restoration times.

Alinta Energy (gas): 131 352
To report emergencies and faults, including the smell of natural gas or LPG.

Water Corporation: 131 375
To report water quality complaints, leaks and bursts, no water, meter tap faults, blocked sewers, overflows and security concerns about Water Corporation assets and infrastructure.

National Security Hotline: 1800 123 400
To report possible signs of terrorism or if you have concerns about, or information on threats to Australia's critical infrastructure.

Department for Child Protection and Family Support: 1800 199 008
An information and counselling service for people in crisis needing urgent help.

Bureau of Meteorology: 1300 659 213
A recorded information line issuing warnings for extreme weather conditions, floods, cyclones and tsunamis.

Wildcare Helpline: 9474 9055
A service for those who find sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife, offering advice on how to care for the animal and how to find a registered wildlife rehabilitator in your area. The service also offers advice on dealing with snakes.

Department of Fire and Emergency Services: 133 337
A public information line to find out about current emergencies and alerts.

Translating and Interpreting Service: 131 450
An interpreting service provided by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection for people who do not speak English, or for agencies and businesses that need to communicate with their non-English speaking clients.

SAFETY TIP:
Enter the acronym **ICE** (in case of emergency) into your mobile phone address book and list the name and contact number of the person you would like to be contacted in an emergency. This can help in times of accidents and emergencies and can allow for faster contact and advice in times of crisis.



Local Police

There are two local police stations that service the City of Armadale. Please do not call local Police directly for emergency assistance or to request Police attendance.

Local Police teams should be contacted only for general administration enquiries, or to discuss local issues that don't require immediate assistance.

Armadale Police
10 Third Road, Armadale 6122
Ph: (08) 9399 0222

Hours: 24 hours, 7 days a week
Covers the suburbs of Armadale, Ashendon, Bedfordale, Brookdale, Camillo, Haynes, Hilbert, Karragullen, Kelmscott, Lesley, Mount Nasura, Mount Richon, Roleystone, Seville Grove and Wungong.

Canning Vale Police
449 Nicholson Road, Canning Vale WA 6155
Ph: (08) 9456 9555

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-7pm
Covers the suburbs of Canning Vale, Forrestdale, Harrisdale, Huntingdale, Piara Waters, Southern River and Thornlie.



Online Services

WA Police

Police.wa.gov.au

Visit the WA Police website to access a variety of online services including:

- Check my Crime
- Report my Lost Property
- Report Stolen/Damaged Property
- Report a Hoon
- Report a (Traffic) Crash
- Register a Party
- Apply for a National Police Clearance
- Payment of Infringes

Crime Stoppers

crimestoppers.com.au

You can report information about any crime or suspicious activities to Crime Stoppers and remain anonymous if you wish.

Register your CCTV details on Cam-Map WA

cam-mapwa.police.wa.gov.au

Cam-Map is a secure database of voluntarily registered private CCTV systems across WA. By providing WA Police with access to information about CCTV locations, Cam-Map supports more efficient investigations and enhances community safety.



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CITY OF Armadale

www.armadale.wa.gov.au
(08) 9394 5000