

Notes

The New Zealand Police

Police are an important part of our community and members of the public can assist them in a number of ways. This includes taking individual responsibility for your actions and your property.

New Zealand Police seeks to prevent crime and road trauma, improve public safety, detect and bring offenders to account and maintain law and order. Police work with a wide range of partners and community organisations.

Police officers receive on-going specialised training and there are a variety of sections within Police that perform specialised functions.

Policing can be a demanding and dangerous job with officers sometimes facing physical danger and having to carry out unpleasant and distressing tasks, but there are many rewards also. Police see the best and the worst of life. Law enforcement is only a small part of their job and one that they share with other agencies such as customs officers and health inspectors. Other work includes such things as searching for missing persons, dealing with sudden deaths, lost property and helping crash victims.

Police are also increasingly involved in international operations and peacekeeping activity.

How to use this resource

Teachers and police education officers should select from the photographs provided, those that best suit the age and maturity of the students and the topic being taught. Police education officers will be able to provide more detail about the photos, or the police roles shown, if needed.

Photos

1 »» Police Graduates

Generally six to eight graduations are held every year at the Royal New Zealand Police College. A group of recruits, between 60 to 170 people, who come to the College at the same time, are called a Wing. Each wing is divided into sections of about 20 recruits. Each Wing consists of officers from different ethnic backgrounds and genders. Each section does all their police training together. The graduation ceremony is for the whole wing. Parents and families are invited to the graduation and it is a very emotional time, as it marks the end of the first stage of a police career. It takes 2 years to qualify as a Police Constable.

2 »» Recruit Physical Training

Police recruits at the Royal New Zealand Police College undertake training in a number of different areas. One of these is physical training that is designed to help them achieve above average fitness. They are also trained in tactical options and risk assessment.

All front line police members must undertake a Physical Competency Test (PCT) every two years in order to gauge their level of fitness. They are required to maintain an above average level of fitness in order to carry out their regular duties.

3 »» Recruit Firearms Training

Recruits undergo firearms training in the use of the Glock pistol and Bushmaster rifle. Here recruits, wearing ear and eye protection, practise shooting, under supervision. Police officers do not carry firearms all the time. Firearms are only issued in special circumstances. Firearms retraining is given every six to twelve months.

4 »» Baton Training

Recruits at the Police College receive training in using police protection equipment such as baton, OC (pepper) spray and handcuffs. Each officer has to qualify each year to use the police equipment. Police officers use their police protection equipment in different circumstances ranging from public disorder incidents to breaking windows to gain entry to houses.

5 »» Police Education Officer at Work

Some police officers decide to join the Police Youth Education Service (YES). They are sworn police officers who then go on to be specially trained at the Police College to work in schools with students, teachers and parents. The police education officer (PEO) works with the school to find out what issues they have and then helps them select YES programmes to help meet these needs. Programmes cover the themes of Crime Prevention and School Road Safety Education. The PEO helps the school plan, teach and evaluate YES programmes.

Here an officer is working with the teacher and Year 3 students.

6 »» Bicycle Check

A large part of a police education officer's work in schools is school road safety education. This includes such things as training school traffic safety teams and teaching young people road safety skills. Here the officer carries out a cycle check, while the teacher checks the safety and fitting of cycle helmets.

7 »» Community Constables

As part of the Community Policing Plan, community constables are assigned to a specific community and handle policing matters there. They aim to be visible, accessible and familiar to their community. Community constables focus on problem-solving and crime prevention at a local level. Their regular work may include walking the beat, talking to business owners and pedestrians, meeting with community groups and organisations, identifying community concerns, building partnerships with the community, government and non-government agencies.

8 »» Fall-in or Muster

Police officers provide a 24-hour service, with groups or sections of officers working a shift, usually eight hours long. Before each group goes on duty, they meet and are briefed about what has happened during the previous 24 hours and also about people who are wanted for committing offences or for questioning. This information is recorded in the officer's notebook. The staff is also inspected to see that they are wearing the correct uniform and carrying their appointments. Appointments are such things as hand cuffs, baton and O/C Spray. Officers are assigned duties for their shift by the officer in charge.

9 »» Front Counter

The front counter of the police station is where members of the public come to seek advice or assistance. In some stations these are staffed by non sworn members. Here a police officer takes down details of an incident being reported by a member of the public.

10 »» Scene of Crime Officer

Scene of Crime Officers attend crime scenes to assess for potential forensic evidence. This can include such evidence as DNA, fingerprints and fibres. They will then photograph, lift, preserve and package the evidential exhibits for further analysis. They wear protective clothing at a scene, to protect themselves and also so they do not cross contaminate the evidence. Evidential exhibits are either treated at the scene to enhance the evidence, or can be taken back to the crime scene lab at a police station for further chemical treatments. Certain types of evidence such as DNA swabs would be sent to directly to the **Environmental Science and Research Ltd** - ESR is a Crown Research Institute, which has forensic laboratories in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch which can analyse samples in the areas of biology (DNA), physical evidence (paint, glass, fibres, firearms and ballistics etc), illicit drugs, toxicology, breath/ blood alcohol and workplace drug testing.

11 >> Fingerprinting

Scene of Crime Officers (SOCO) dust suitable surfaces at the scene of a crime hoping to be able to find and 'lift' a clear fingerprint that the offender has left behind. The prints are compared with the files of prints held at the national Fingerprint Section in Wellington, to see if they are the prints of a known offender. The National Fingerprint Section maintains storage of more than 430,000 original sets of fingerprints, and manages the Automated Fingerprint Identification System computer system.

12 >> Electronic Crime Laboratory

The **New Zealand Police** is one of many Government agencies that deal with computer-related offending. Today, almost every major investigation has an electronic component because people use the internet, mobile phones, laptops, digital cameras, iPods, personal navigation devices and other electronic equipment as a matter of course in their daily lives.

These electronic devices have facilitated new ways to commit crimes like fraud, drug dealing, extortion, harassment and paedophilia. They also make it easy for offending to cross a large distance and police jurisdictions.

The internet has brought criminal offending right into our homes and even into children's bedrooms if computers are kept there. Some victims, and especially children, are easy targets because they lack online security awareness or skills.

In this photo a cell phone which is being forensically analysed.

13 >> Crowd Control

One of the roles of the police is to maintain law and order and enhance public safety. Some police officers will be directed to functions where large numbers of people will gather to watch an event or sometimes to protest. Here there is a police presence at a rugby game at Eden Park in Auckland.

14 >> Highway Patrol

New Zealand Police formed a special Highway Patrol unit at the end of 2000. The Highway Patrol's aim is to help reduce road trauma and make our roads safer by providing a highly visible, dedicated police presence. Highway Patrol staff are based on state highways, where the higher speeds often contribute to the seriousness of the crashes.

Higher visibility on the roads gives the public a sense of confidence that police are not only out there, but are taking an active interest in their safety. A visible presence also acts as a deterrent to those who wish to flout the road laws.

In this photo a driver is being given a speeding ticket.

15 »» Drink Drive Checkpoint

Local police set checkpoints such as the one shown here to deter drinking and driving. If drivers see checkpoints it will serve as a reminder. Cars passing the checkpoint will be stopped and the drivers will be required to undergo a passive breath test or breath-screening test. If the test shows the person has been drinking alcohol, they will be required to take an evidential breath test. Sometimes checkpoints are held in the early morning, as a lot of partygoers do not realise that they may well be still over the limit next morning.

Each District has a dedicated unit called a Traffic Alcohol Group (TAG). They set up checkpoints in different areas dealing with drink drive and motor offences. TAG travel around Police Districts and can be deployed in both rural and urban areas.

16 »» Speed Camera

As part of the plan to keep road death and injuries down, police operate speed cameras sited where speed has been a significant factor in crashes or where there is an obvious road safety risk.

Sometimes the speed cameras are mounted on poles, but can be in police vehicles or hand held as shown in the photo. The camera takes a photo of any car that is exceeding the speed limit above a certain speed tolerance. The owner of the car can receive a fine. The presence of a speed camera can act as a deterrent to speeding.

17 »» Search and Rescue

Some police officers volunteer to work in teams that are specially trained in search and rescue techniques. These officers search for people who are lost, find them, rescue the injured and recover dead bodies in remote or inaccessible areas. Police Search and Rescue (SAR) team works in cooperation with New Zealand Land SAR, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications, Coastguard New Zealand, and Surf Life Saving New Zealand. They use support services, for example Ambulance and Rescue helicopters, such as the Westpac Rescue Helicopter and use the defence forces resources, especially the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Police are the coordinators of Category I Search and Rescue operations on land and sea off shore up to the range of Coastguard's boats. Police Search and Rescue (SAR) officers also look after Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) where people are killed in air crashes, natural disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis.

18 »» General Purpose Police Dogs

The general purpose dog is mainly used to track and search for people.

The training of a general purpose dog is based on a three-stage qualification process and takes approximately eight months. All training courses are conducted at the Police Dog Training Centre at Trentham (Wellington).

Dogs live at home with their handlers. All police dog handlers are experienced police officers with approximately five years policing experience behind them before they join the Dog Section.

Police use German Shepherds because of their size, temperament and trainability. Half of the dogs police train are gifted or bought from the public. The Dog Training Centre also has its own breeding programme which provides the remaining dogs needed.

General purpose dogs are also trained to carry out other roles such as search and rescue work including avalanche rescue, deployment with the Armed Offender Squad, firearm detection work, drug detection in smaller centres that do not have a specialist dog.

In addition, the section also operates ten narcotic detector dog teams and three explosive detector dog teams.

19 »» Narcotic Detector Dogs (Drug Dog)

Police detector dog teams were also deployed to assist police operations in narcotic, explosive and firearms detection.

Police mainly use Labradors for the specialist role of locating illegal drugs.

20 »» Iwi liaison and Māori Wardens

Iwi Liaison Officers operate at a community level and concentrate on improving Police/Māori relationships.

Police work closely with Safer Community Councils and Māori Wardens, especially in the areas of youth suicide prevention, applying the national drug policy and working to improve road safety.

This photo taken in Masterton shows the Iwi Liaison Officer and two Māori wardens.

21 »» Rural Police Officer

Police officers who work in rural areas have to perform all the functions carried out by specialists in a city police station. They are an integral part of the local community and often live in a police house attached to the police station. Here the officer talks to one of the local farmers.

22 »» Police Launch

The Wellington Police Maritime Unit consists of a senior sergeant, sergeant and 10 constables. The service provides 24-hour coverage to the public, based on shifts from 0700hrs-2300hrs weekdays, 1000hrs-2100hrs week ends. After hours response is on a call-out basis, with crew able to be on the water within 15 minutes from receipt of an emergency call. The operational area for the unit is a 90 nautical miles radius from the entrance of Wellington Harbour. The new vessel, Lady Elizabeth IV was launched in August 2010. The 18.5 metre catamaran will enable up to eight staff from different agencies to go to sea for a week.

23 »» Air Support Unit

The Air Support Unit is based in Auckland. It is made up of a sergeant and seven constables. The hours of operation are early and late shifts Monday to Friday, with a third twilight shift on Thursday and Friday evenings. A twilight shift is worked on Saturday. Staff are available on call-back outside of these hours. The Air Support Unit leases two twin-engine Eurocopter AS355 F1 Squirrels operating under the call-sign "Eagle". These are flown by pilots provided as part of the lease. The rest of the crew is made up of sworn

Police staff. The Eagle can usually be airborne within three minutes of receiving a call and can arrive anywhere in greater Auckland within 12 minutes. Eagle is used in a range of ways including search and rescue operations, directing patrol vehicles, crime detection and co-ordinating police responses. A police dog and its handler has been taken in the police helicopter Eagle to a scene where a crime has occurred. The police dog is checking for a scent.

24 »» Airport Police

Airport Police are located at airports that have scheduled International and Jet Aircraft flights. Their presence is required for New Zealand to meet its international security obligations and so in particular they focus on the security of the airport and passengers. They are also specifically trained to assist in the multi agency response to an airport emergency. As well they provide a crime and road policing response in and around the airport.

25 »» Police Car on Patrol

These officers are out on patrol. One partner is speaking with the driver of the car that they have pulled over. The other officer is on the radio talking to a Communicator/Dispatcher based at the Police Communication Centre. He is telling them what is happening and asking for information about the car and people in it. The screen in front of him is a Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) and the officer can also use that to get some information about the car and people in it.

While the officer is doing these checks he is also keeping an eye on his partner, making sure he is safe. If anything happens he calls it in through the radio to Comms so they know to send more staff.

The MDT also tells the officers about the next job (incident) they have to go to, giving the location and nature of the incident. When they get to the job they push a button and it will tell Comms that they have arrived at the address. This helps to cut down radio traffic.

26 »» Police Dive Squad

The Police National Dive Squad is based in Wellington, but responds to requests for assistance from all over New Zealand.

Around two to six divers are called to each job which can last from several hours to several days.

The squad spends most of its time on evidential searches. Sometimes these searches involve technically difficult underwater video work which is later used as evidence.

The squad often videos bodies in the sea or river to give doctors at autopsies an accurate view of how the body was found. Videos also enable the officer in charge of a case to see exactly what the diver sees before anything is brought to the surface. The squad focuses on recovery and not rescue.

27 »» Overseas Deployment

The New Zealand Police deploys staff to locations in the Pacific, Southeast Asia and beyond to help countries increase stability, security and policing capability. They may also assist in the event of a natural

disaster, such as the tsunami in Samoa in 2009. New Zealand Police are currently deployed to Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands. All staff assigned to overseas deployments undergo specialist training such as language, culture, marine safety, first aid, firearms and navigation before being deployed. Each deployment requires a wide spectrum of skills and abilities, drawing on staff from various branches in New Zealand Police including general duties, criminal investigations branch and other specialist areas.

This picture was taken while the police officer was on patrol in the Band-e Amir Lakes region of Bamiyan province in Afghanistan. The officers are required to be fully armed when on patrol in this area.

28 »» Armed Offenders Squad (AOS)

NZ Police is essentially an unarmed service. The AOS allows Police to safely respond and resolve situations in which there is an actual or threatened use of firearms or other weapons against members of the public or Police. In an incident AOS cordon and contain the scene and appeal to armed offenders.

These tactics are successful in the vast majority of incidents, which are resolved without the use of force. The AOS is also used for some pre-planned operations where there is a high risk, for example large cash escorts, or assisting other Police with search warrants. The squads are supported by negotiation teams and specially trained police dogs and handlers. AOS members are all volunteers. They are part-time, drawn from all branches of police, and operate on a call-out basis.

29 »» Police Communications Centres

New Zealand Police have three Communications Centres based in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. Communication Centres handle three types of calls:

- » 111 emergency calls - when urgent, immediate assistance is required. Deaf and hearing impaired people can text 111 if they have an emergency.
- » Non-emergency or 'general' calls - reporting less urgent incidents that have happened a while ago and don't need an immediate police response.
- » *555 calls for reporting traffic issues.

In total Police Communications Centres handle an average of 33,000 emergency, general and *555 calls every week. The number of calls is going up every year.

30 »» Arrest

Police have the power to arrest people for arrestable offences. These arrestable offences range from theft to murder. Arrested people are given their Rights which include the right to contact a Lawyer or have somebody informed of their arrest. Prisoners are not always handcuffed, however Police have the power to handcuff prisoners in certain circumstances such as them being violent or likely to escape custody. Following arrest offenders are brought back to the police station and can be held in the Police cells. Most prisoners are released on bail pending a court hearing. In certain circumstances offenders can be denied bail and remain in custody.