

Safety Notice

Notice to all network stakeholders

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Interacting with the Public: Assess the risk

Background

During a recent electricity project in a Tauranga suburb a traffic management service provider had implemented a traffic management plan which included installing 30kph speed restriction signs to lower the risk to road users, pedestrians, and roadside workers. Traffic management team members were also on site during the day and at some point, a member of the team noticed a youth with a black paint spray can tagging and changing the 30kph sign to an 80kph.

Due to the elevated health and safety risk associated with increasing the road speed through the worksite the team member requested the individual to stop spraying the sign at which point the youth started to become aggressive and pulled a knife from his bag, the TM worker moved away and called the Police on 111.

After some time, the Police arrived and spoke to the youth concerned but due to the age of the individual said they had limited powers. After some time spent talking to the youth the Police left the site however, he continued to exhibit aggressive behavior and was restrained by a member of his family. The work was completed, and the traffic management disassembled and removed without any further incident.

Police Recommendations:

- In all situations where people are exhibiting aggressive or threatening behavior, step back, move, keep well clear and do not confront the person.
- If you feel threatened stay well, clear and call 111 immediately.
- In situations where the public's health and well-being are put at risk call 111 immediately.
- In non-emergency situations call 105 and report the event.

Please distribute to all relevant staff immediately

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