

Checklist For The Reporting Of Criminal Damage Offences

Quick Check Reporting Checklist

Jurisdiction: Victoria. Australia.

Local area: City of Whittlesea.

Criminal damage involves intentionally destroying, defacing or damaging property belonging to another person without lawful excuse. It includes conduct such as smashing windows, damaging vehicles, applying graffiti, vandalising bus shelters, and destroying or damaging public infrastructure, community facilities or private property. Under Victorian criminal law, the basic offence of criminal damage carries a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment.

The Criminal Damage offence is happening now

- ☐ Move to a safe location.
- ☐ Do not confront, pursue, restrain or challenge the offending person involved.
- ☐ Call Triple Zero on 000 when:
 - ☐ The damage is occurring now.
 - ☐ The suspected offender is still present or nearby.
 - ☐ A person is injured, threatened or in immediate danger; and
 - ☐ Broken glass, fire, exposed electrical equipment, structural damage or another serious hazard presents an immediate risk; and
 - ☐ Immediate police, fire brigade or ambulance attendance is required (Nominate which service is needed).

Victoria Police directs people to call Triple Zero 000, when anyone is in danger, a crime is occurring or immediate police attendance is required.

The incident is over and there is no immediate danger

- ☐ Report the offence to Victoria Police:

Police Assistance Line: 131 444.

Online: police.vic.gov.au/report

Availability: 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Property damage, including vandalism and graffiti, can generally be reported through Victoria Police Online Reporting or the Police Assistance Line. Incidents that cannot be reported through those services should be reported to the local police station.

You have information but you want to remain anonymous

☐ Contact Crime Stoppers Victoria:

Telephone: 1800 333 000.

Online: [crimestoppersvic.com.au/report a crime](https://crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime)

Crime Stoppers accepts information about suspected offenders and criminal activity. A person may choose to remain anonymous. Crime Stoppers is not an emergency service and is not the appropriate service for a victim seeking to make a formal police report.

Council property or a local public hazard has been damaged

☐ Report the damaged asset to the City of Whittlesea Council:

Telephone: 03 9217 2170.

Online: customerportal.whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Council website: [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/report an issue](https://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/report-an-issue)

The Customer Portal accepts reports about graffiti, roads, footpaths, parks, public spaces and Council facilities. Reporting damage to Council assists with inspection, hazard control and repair. It does not replace reporting the criminal offence to Victoria Police.

Comprehensive Criminal Damage Reporting Check List

1. Understanding Intentional Criminal Damage

- ☐ Understand that intentional criminal damage generally involves deliberately destroying or damaging property without lawful excuse.
- ☐ The property may belong entirely to another person or be jointly owned by the offender and another person.
- ☐ The damage does not have to destroy the property completely. Conduct that breaks, defaces, impairs, alters or reduces the usefulness or value of property may constitute damage.
- ☐ Under section 197(1) of the *Crimes Act 1958 (Vic)*, intentionally destroying or damaging property belonging to another, or jointly belonging to the offender and another, without lawful excuse is an indictable offence.
- ☐ The maximum penalty for the basic offence of Criminal Damage is 10 years imprisonment.

☐ Where the damage is intended to endanger another person's life, the maximum penalty is 15 years imprisonment; and

☐ Property damage caused by fire is charged as arson under section 197 and carries a maximum penalty of 15 years imprisonment.

These are maximum statutory penalties. The penalty imposed in an individual case depends on the facts, seriousness and applicable sentencing law.

2. Common examples

Intentional criminal damage may include:

- ☐ Smashing or damaging bus shelters.
- ☐ Breaking windows, doors, locks or security screens.
- ☐ Scratching, denting or otherwise damaging vehicles.
- ☐ Slashing tyres or breaking vehicle mirrors and lights.
- ☐ Damaging homes, fences, letterboxes or gardens.
- ☐ Damaging shops, offices, factories or construction sites.
- ☐ Defacing property with graffiti, paint, markers or corrosive substances.
- ☐ Damaging playgrounds, sporting facilities, public toilets or community centres.
- ☐ Breaking streetlights, signs, bollards, seats or rubbish bins.
- ☐ Damaging CCTV cameras, alarms or access control equipment.
- ☐ Damaging public artwork, monuments, memorials or places of worship.
- ☐ Damaging trees, landscaping or environmental assets.
- ☐ Damaging school property or educational facilities.
- ☐ Damaging railway, bus or other transport infrastructure; and
- ☐ Interfering with electricity, telecommunications, water or other utility infrastructure.

Victoria Police describes property damage as including damage to homes, businesses, vehicles and personal possessions, as well as vandalism and graffiti undertaken without the owner's permission.

3. Warning signs and suspicious behaviour

Suspicious behaviour must be assessed by what a person is doing, not by their appearance, age, ethnicity or presence in a public place.

Safely observe and report conduct such as:

- ☐ A person striking, kicking, breaking, scratching or defacing property.
- ☐ A person using paint, markers, tools, rocks or other objects to damage property.
- ☐ Repeated interference with doors, windows, signs, lighting, cameras or public equipment.
- ☐ A person attempting to conceal their actions while damaging property.
- ☐ A person acting as a lookout while another person damages property.
- ☐ A vehicle repeatedly circling a location while property is being damaged.
- ☐ People entering a closed facility, construction site or restricted area without apparent authority.
- ☐ Damage occurring repeatedly at the same place or at similar times.
- ☐ Tools, paint containers or damaged equipment being discarded near the location.
- ☐ Threats to damage property, particularly where a specific target, time or location is mentioned; and
- ☐ Attempts to disable lighting, CCTV, alarms or access controls before damage occurs.

Do not assume that photography, lawful public access, unusual clothing or a person's presence alone establishes criminal conduct.

4. Immediate action when criminal damage is occurring

- ☐ Prioritise your safety and the safety of people around you.
- ☐ Move away from the offender and damaged area.
- ☐ Enter a secure building, vehicle or populated area where necessary.
- ☐ Call 000 from a safe location.
- ☐ Clearly tell the operator that criminal damage is occurring.
- ☐ Give the exact location (or GPS Coordinates if available) before providing further details.
- ☐ State whether anyone is injured, threatened or trapped.

- ☐ State whether the offender has a weapon or dangerous implement.
- ☐ State whether fire, electricity, gas, traffic or structural damage creates an immediate hazard.
- ☐ Describe the offender's current actions and direction of movement.
- ☐ Follow the operator's instructions.
- ☐ Continue observing only when this can be done safely.
- ☐ Do not move closer to obtain photographs or video.
- ☐ Do not attempt to protect property by physically intervening.
- ☐ Do not block the offender's vehicle or route of departure; and
- ☐ Do not follow the offender on foot or in a vehicle.

Victoria Police states that personal safety takes priority and specifically advises people not to confront a person committing vandalism.

5. When to call Triple Zero

Call 000 immediately when:

- ☐ The offence is happening now.
- ☐ The suspected offender is still at the location.
- ☐ The suspected offender has only just left and may still be nearby.
- ☐ Anyone is being threatened, assaulted or placed in danger.
- ☐ A weapon is present or suspected.
- ☐ Fire has been lit or an attempt has been made to start a fire.
- ☐ Electrical wires, gas equipment or utility infrastructure has been damaged.
- ☐ Damage has created a dangerous obstruction on a road or transport route.
- ☐ A building or structure appears unstable.
- ☐ Emergency medical assistance is required; and
- ☐ Immediate police attendance is necessary to prevent further harm.

Note: Do not use Crime Stoppers, Council reporting systems or social media for an emergency situation.

6. Reporting a nonurgent incident to Victoria Police

When the incident has ended and no immediate danger exists:

- ☐ Call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.
- ☐ Alternatively, make a report through *police.vic.gov.au/report*
- ☐ Contact the local police station where the matter cannot be reported online or through the Police Assistance Line.
- ☐ Identify yourself as the victim, property owner, witness or authorised representative.
- ☐ Explain whether the property is privately owned, Council owned, transport infrastructure or another public asset.
- ☐ Provide the precise location (and GPS Coordinates if available) and time of the incident.
- ☐ Describe the damaged property.
- ☐ Describe how the damage appears to have occurred.
- ☐ State whether the damage created a public hazard.
- ☐ State whether CCTV, photographs, video or witnesses are available.
- ☐ Provide information about a suspected offender only where it is honestly held.
- ☐ Clearly distinguish between:
 - ☐ What you personally saw or heard.
 - ☐ What another person told you.
 - ☐ What is shown in footage or photographs.
 - ☐ What you believe or suspect.
- ☐ Ask for the police event, incident or report number; and
- ☐ Record the name or registered number of the police member where provided.

Victoria Police permits nonurgent property damage, graffiti and vandalism reports through its online service or the Police Assistance Line.

7. Anonymous information through Crime Stoppers

Use Crime Stoppers when you have information about the offence or suspected offender but do not want to identify yourself.

- ☐ Call 1800 333 000.
- ☐ Submit information at [crimestoppersvic.com.au/report a crime](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime).
- ☐ State the offence, location (GPS Coordinates if available) and approximate date and time.
- ☐ Provide the suspected offender's name or address where genuinely known.
- ☐ Provide any known nickname or online identifier.
- ☐ Describe the person using observable characteristics.
- ☐ Provide vehicle details, including registration, colour, make and model.
- ☐ Explain the basis of your information.
- ☐ State whether you personally witnessed the incident.
- ☐ State whether photographs, footage, messages or other information exists.
- ☐ Provide information about recurring damage or planned offending.
- ☐ Retain the Crime Stoppers reference number where one is provided; and
- ☐ Do not use Crime Stoppers instead of 000 when urgent police intervention is required.

Crime Stoppers accepts information about who, what, when, where and how an incident occurred. Information may be supplied online or by telephone, and the reporter may remain anonymous.

8. Reporting damaged public assets and hazards

City of Whittlesea property

Report damage involving:

- ☐ Council buildings and community centres.
- ☐ Parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities.
- ☐ Public toilets and change facilities.
- ☐ Council roads, footpaths and shared paths.
- ☐ Council signs, seats, bins and street furniture.

- ☐ Council managed car parks.
- ☐ Council trees, gardens and landscaping; and
- ☐ Graffiti on Council property.

Provide:

- ☐ The precise location (or GPS Coordinates: Latitude and Longitude in remote areas).
- ☐ The nearest street address or intersection.
- ☐ The park, reserve or facility name.
- ☐ The asset number where displayed.
- ☐ Photographs taken from a safe position.
- ☐ A description of any immediate hazard; and
- ☐ The police report number where the offence has been reported.

Contact the City of Whittlesea through its Customer Portal or on 03 9217 2170.

Bus shelters and public transport assets

- ☐ Report the criminal offence to the Victoria Police.
- ☐ Report the damaged shelter, stop, sign or facility to Transport Victoria or the relevant operator.
- ☐ Record the bus stop number, route number, station name or nearby intersection; and
- ☐ Call Transport Victoria on 1800 800 007 for public transport enquiries and reporting assistance.

Ownership and maintenance responsibility can vary. Transport Victoria can direct the report to the appropriate public transport operator or asset manager.

Roads and traffic infrastructure

- ☐ Report local road and footpath assets to the City of Whittlesea.
- ☐ Report urgent hazards on arterial or state managed roads to Transport Victoria on 13 11 70; and
- ☐ Call 000 where the hazard creates an immediate threat to life or serious injury.

Transport Victoria accepts urgent road hazard reports on 13 11 70.

Privately owned property

- ☐ Notify the owner, tenant, business manager, owners corporation or property manager.
- ☐ Report shopping centre damage to centre management or security.
- ☐ Report school damage to the school administration and police.
- ☐ Report utility damage using the emergency contact displayed on the asset or the relevant utility provider's official service; and
- ☐ Do not touch exposed wires, leaking infrastructure or damaged utility equipment.

9. Information to record safely

Record only what you can be observed without placing yourself or another person at risk.

Location

- ☐ Exact street address (or the GPS Coordinates: Latitude and Longitude in remote areas).
- ☐ Nearest intersection.
- ☐ Park, reserve, station, bus stop or facility name.
- ☐ Bus stop, pole, asset or identification number; and
- ☐ The specific part of the property affected.

Time

- ☐ Date.
- ☐ Approximate starting time.
- ☐ Approximate finishing time.
- ☐ Time the offender left; and
- ☐ Time police, security or the property owner was contacted.

Conduct

- ☐ What the person did.
- ☐ What object, tool or substance was used.
- ☐ Words or threats heard.
- ☐ Whether another person acted as a lookout or assistant.
- ☐ Whether anything was removed from the location; and

☐ Whether fire or an accelerant was involved.

Description of the suspected offender

☐ Approximate height.

☐ Build.

☐ Hair colour and style.

☐ Clothing and footwear.

☐ Bags, tools or other items carried.

☐ Tattoos, piercings or other distinguishing features.

☐ Voice or words used, where clearly heard.

☐ Direction of travel; and

☐ If the offender or offenders are known to you, provide their names and address details).

Describe observable features. Do not guess ethnicity, nationality, medical status or motives.

Vehicle or transport

☐ Registration number.

☐ State of registration.

☐ Make and model.

☐ Colour.

☐ Vehicle type.

☐ Damage, stickers or modifications.

☐ Number of occupants.

☐ Direction of travel; and

☐ Bicycle, eBike, motorcycle or public transport details where relevant.

Damage

☐ Property or asset affected.

☐ Type of damage.

- ☐ Approximate size or extent.
- ☐ Broken glass, sharp edges or debris.
- ☐ Exposed electrical or mechanical components.
- ☐ Obstruction of roads, paths or access points.
- ☐ Whether the asset remains usable; and
- ☐ Any immediate public safety risk.

Evidence and witnesses

- ☐ Names and contact details of all willing witnesses.
- ☐ Location of nearby CCTV or doorbell cameras.
- ☐ Photographs or video taken safely.
- ☐ Relevant messages, posts or communications; and
- ☐ Business, vehicle or property cameras that may contain footage.

10. Preserving evidence

- ☐ Do not touch, move, clean or rearrange damaged property before police have advised that it is appropriate to do so.
- ☐ Do not handle discarded tools, paint containers, clothing or other possible evidence.
- ☐ Keep people and animals away from the damaged (crime scene) area where possible.
- ☐ Do not attempt to recover fingerprints or biological material yourself.
- ☐ Photograph the area from a safe distance before repairs or cleaning commence.
- ☐ Keep original photographs and video files.
- ☐ Do not edit, crop, filter, annotate or compress the original photographs and video files.
- ☐ Make a separate copy before creating edited versions for insurance or maintenance purposes.
- ☐ Preserve CCTV covering a reasonable period before, during and after the incident.
- ☐ Export footage promptly before the system automatically records over it.
- ☐ Confirm that the CCTV date and time settings are accurate.
- ☐ Record who downloaded, copied or handled the footage.
- ☐ Preserve relevant messages, emails and social media communications.

☐ Take screenshots where content may disappear but retain the original source where possible.

☐ Give evidence directly to police or through an authorised reporting channel; and

☐ Do not publish evidence photographs and video files online.

Crime Stoppers accepts photographs and video with online reports, while Victoria Police advises property owners to photograph graffiti when reporting it.

11. Personal safety prohibitions

☐ Do not confront the suspected offender.

☐ Do not threaten or provoke the person.

☐ Do not pursue the person.

☐ Do not attempt to restrain or detain the person.

☐ Do not block a vehicle or escape route.

☐ Do not enter private property to obtain evidence.

☐ Do not trespass to inspect suspected damage.

☐ Do not conduct covert surveillance inside another person's home or private property.

☐ Do not place tracking equipment on a person or vehicle.

☐ Do not encourage children or vulnerable people to approach the scene.

☐ Do not attempt to recover property from a suspected offender.

☐ Do not return to an unsafe location merely to obtain better photographs; and

☐ Do not interfere with police, emergency services or authorised repair workers.

Your safety takes priority over protecting property or identifying an offender(s).

12. When you know or suspect the offender's identity

☐ Report the information to Victoria Police or Crime Stoppers.

☐ Provide the person's name only where genuinely known.

☐ Provide an address, workplace, school or vehicle only where lawfully known and relevant.

☐ Explain how you know the person.

☐ Explain how you obtained the information.

- ☐ Separate direct knowledge from rumour or second hand information.
- ☐ Identify any person who can independently confirm the information.
- ☐ Preserve relevant messages, admissions, photographs or footage.
- ☐ Tell police about any threat to commit further damage.
- ☐ Tell police if the person possesses tools, weapons or accelerants relevant to the conduct.
- ☐ Do not contact the person to demand an explanation.
- ☐ Do not warn the person that a report has been made.
- ☐ Do not attempt to obtain a confession.
- ☐ Do not enter the person's property or vehicle.
- ☐ Do not publish the person's identity, photograph or address online; and
- ☐ Do not describe a person as guilty unless and until guilt is determined by a court.

A reasonable suspicion may be reported, but it must be presented honestly as a suspicion rather than an established fact.

13. Avoid speculation, vigilantism and online accusations

- ☐ Report facts accurately.
- ☐ Clearly identify uncertainty.
- ☐ Do not exaggerate the value or extent of damage.
- ☐ Do not invent details to make a report appear more serious.
- ☐ Do not repeat neighbourhood rumours as established facts.
- ☐ Do not publicly name a suspected offender.
- ☐ Do not upload a suspected offender's image to community groups for identification.
- ☐ Do not publish residential addresses, vehicle registrations or personal information.
- ☐ Do not organise residents to confront or patrol against a particular person.
- ☐ Do not threaten retaliation or property damage.
- ☐ Do not interfere with a police investigation.
- ☐ Do not encourage punishment outside the legal process; and
- ☐ Correct inaccurate information that you have previously informed.

Information should be given to the police through lawful reporting channels, not through social media.

14. Actions for different members of the community

Victims and property owners

- ☐ Ensure everyone is safe.
- ☐ Report the offence to the police.
- ☐ Photograph the damage before cleaning or repairs.
- ☐ Preserve CCTV and other evidence.
- ☐ Make temporary repairs only where required to remove an immediate hazard or secure the property.
- ☐ Keep invoices, quotations and receipts.
- ☐ Notify your insurer where applicable.
- ☐ Retain the police report number; and
- ☐ Record lost income, repair costs and other consequences.

Witnesses

- ☐ Move to a safe location.
- ☐ Report the incident promptly.
- ☐ Write down observations while they remain fresh in your memory.
- ☐ Preserve photographs, video and digital recorded footage.
- ☐ Provide contact details to police where comfortable doing so; and
- ☐ Do not discuss accounts with other witnesses in a way that may alter independent recollection.

Residents

- ☐ Report repeated damage and recurring hotspots.
- ☐ Maintain clear sightlines around homes and shared areas.
- ☐ Report broken lighting, gates, doors and public infrastructure.
- ☐ Share CCTV directly with police do not post it publicly; and
- ☐ Support neighbours affected by damage without interfering in the investigation.

Businesses

- ☐ Train staff in emergency and reporting procedures.
- ☐ Assign responsibility for preserving CCTV.
- ☐ Maintain an incident register.
- ☐ Ensure cameras display the correct date and time.
- ☐ Secure tools, paint, ladders and combustible materials.
- ☐ Repair damaged locks, doors and windows promptly; and
- ☐ Remove graffiti after evidence has been recorded and police requirements have been addressed.

Community organisations

- ☐ Establish a written incident reporting procedure.
- ☐ Nominate authorised contacts for police and Council.
- ☐ Maintain emergency contact lists.
- ☐ Record repeated incidents and locations including if available, GPS Coordinates: Latitude and Longitude.
- ☐ Conduct regular inspections of facilities.
- ☐ Educate members about lawful reporting and personal safety; and
- ☐ Avoid unofficial patrols involving confrontation or pursuit.

15. Practical prevention measures

Homes and residential buildings

- ☐ Lock doors, gates, garages and storage areas.
- ☐ Repair damaged locks and fences promptly.
- ☐ Install sensor lighting at entrances and vulnerable areas.
- ☐ Keep tools, ladders and paint secured.
- ☐ Install visible CCTV where appropriate.
- ☐ Ensure cameras cover the property without unnecessarily recording neighbouring private areas.
- ☐ Keep trees and shrubs maintained to preserve visibility.

- ☐ Display the property address clearly for emergency responders; and
- ☐ Report broken common property doors, gates and lighting to the owners corporation or manager.

Businesses and community facilities

- ☐ Use laminated glass, shatter resistant film or other damage resistant materials where appropriate.
- ☐ Protect vulnerable windows, doors and equipment.
- ☐ Install quality locks, shutters, bollards or barriers suitable for the location.
- ☐ Provide adequate external lighting.
- ☐ Maintain clear visibility from the street.
- ☐ Position CCTV to capture entrances, exits, faces and vehicle registration plates.
- ☐ Secure CCTV recording equipment and maintain backups.
- ☐ Display lawful CCTV and security signage.
- ☐ Secure bins, pallets, fuels and combustible materials; and
- ☐ Remove graffiti within 24 to 48 hours after recording evidence and satisfying police requirements.

Victoria Police suggests lighting, CCTV, access controls, shatter resistant materials, rapid graffiti removal and secure storage as property protection measures.

16. Designing safer places and addressing hotspots

Crime prevention through environmental design reduces opportunities for offending by improving visibility, access control, maintenance and legitimate community use.

- ☐ Provide clear sightlines through and around public facilities.
- ☐ Avoid landscaping that creates concealed areas near entrances, paths and car parks.
- ☐ Maintain lighting so faces, movement and hazards can be seen.
- ☐ Repair failed lights promptly.
- ☐ Position entrances and paths where they can be observed by surrounding properties and users.
- ☐ Use durable and vandal resistant materials.
- ☐ Replace repeatedly damaged assets with designs appropriate to the risk.

- ☐ Use metal, laminated or shatter resistant components where justified.
- ☐ Ensure bus shelters maintain clear visibility in every direction.
- ☐ Protect electrical, communications and control equipment from unauthorised access.
- ☐ Limit access to rooftops, service areas and storage facilities.
- ☐ Remove abandoned objects that may be used to cause damage.
- ☐ Maintain public areas so they appear actively managed and cared for.
- ☐ Repair damage promptly to reduce hazards and discourage repetition.
- ☐ Record the dates, times and exact locations (GPS Coordinates, Latitude and Longitude) of recurring incidents.
- ☐ Report patterns to the Victoria Police and the City of Whittlesea.
- ☐ Request a site based safety assessment where repeated incidents occur.
- ☐ Review whether lighting, CCTV, patrols, maintenance or redesign is required; and
- ☐ Evaluate whether prevention measures reduce incidents over time.

Victoria Police advises pairing CCTV with lighting, maintaining clear coverage and using surveillance as one component of a broader crime prevention approach.

17. Follow up after reporting

- ☐ Retain the police report or event number.
- ☐ Retain the Council or Transport Victoria request number.
- ☐ Record the date, time and method of each report.
- ☐ Keep the name or registered number of the officer where provided.
- ☐ Keep original evidence in a secure location.
- ☐ Back up important footage and photographs.
- ☐ Provide additional evidence promptly when requested.
- ☐ Notify police if further damage, threats or related incidents occur.
- ☐ Quote the original report number when supplying further information.
- ☐ Inform the asset owner or insurer of significant developments.
- ☐ Keep repair quotations, invoices and receipts.
- ☐ Document temporary safety measures and permanent repairs.

- ☐ Avoid repeatedly contacting anonymous reporting services for investigation updates.
- ☐ Review security and prevention measures after the immediate incident has been addressed; and
- ☐ Record recurring incidents separately while linking them to the previous report where relevant.

18. Support for people affected by crime

People affected by crime may require information, practical assistance and support, counselling or other referral support.

Victims of Crime Helpline

Telephone: 1800 819 817.

Text: 0427 767 891.

Website: victimsofcrime.vic.gov.au

Hours:

- ☐ Monday to Friday, 8 am to 7 pm; and
- ☐ Saturday, Sunday and public holidays, 8 am to 5 pm.

The Helpline provides free information about reporting crime, victim rights, the criminal justice system and available support. Eligibility for particular assistance programs depends on the offence and individual circumstances.

Language assistance

- ☐ For assistance contacting the City of Whittlesea in another language, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask to be connected to 03 9217 2170; and
- ☐ Victoria Police provides translated information about its Police Assistance Line and Online Reporting service.

19. Help prevent further damage

- ☐ Report criminal damage promptly.
- ☐ Provide clear, accurate and factual information.
- ☐ Report recurring hotspots and repeated incidents to Victoria Police and the responsible authority.
- ☐ Preserve photographs, video, CCTV footage and other potential evidence.

- ☐ Encourage neighbours and businesses to preserve relevant footage before it is automatically deleted or overwritten.
- ☐ Report public hazards and damaged assets to the responsible authority.
- ☐ Secure private property, improve lighting and maintain working security cameras.
- ☐ Strengthen security without creating additional safety, access or privacy risks.
- ☐ Support victims, affected residents and neighbouring businesses.
- ☐ Never place yourself at risk to collect evidence.
- ☐ Never confront, pursue, threaten or publicly identify a suspected offender; and
- ☐ Allow Victoria Police to investigate and the courts to determine criminal responsibility.

Protecting public and private property safeguards community resources, preserves neighbourhood amenity and strengthens public safety. Prompt reporting, careful preservation of evidence, timely repairs and practical prevention measures all contribute to making the City of Whittlesea safer for everyone.

Disclaimer

This checklist provides general community safety information. It is not legal advice and does not replace emergency instructions, emergency services and police advice, professional security advice or directions given by Victoria Police, emergency services, the City of Whittlesea or another authorised agency.

Recommendation: I recommend that every resident and each member of their family, including children, download and use the ***Emergency+*** app on their smartphone.

