



Giving A Good Description

You and your neighbours can help Police by providing a good description of anyone you see acting suspiciously or committing a crime by writing down what you see as soon as possible. Make a note of the most obvious features by which they can be identified as well as any vehicles.

If you see a crime being committed, dial 111 immediately and ask for Police. Keep calm, give your name, address and telephone number. Report where and what is happening. Stay on the phone and, if you can safely, keep watching and write down any further details. It's important to try and build up a complete picture of a person from head to toe as well as the situation.

Write down the following details:

- Gender and estimated age group
- Race (Pākehā, Pasifika, Māori, Asian, Mixed)
- Height - compare against a fixed object such as a fence or lamp post if possible
- Body type (thin, average, muscular, large)
- Hair cut and type (long, straight, curly, wavy, short, shaved, balding)
- Hair colour (blonde, black, brown, red, grey or greying, brightly coloured - be specific)

Clothing can be very distinguishing and helpful. Things to look for are:

- Headwear (cap, beanie, balaclava)
- Tops and pants (distinctive logos, colours, lengths, rips or tears and styles)
- Footwear (shoes, boots, sandals, heels, barefooted)
- Jewellery and accessories

If you have the opportunity to observe the person in detail look for:

- Facial features (shape of face, including mouth, nose, chin and ears)
- Facial hair (moustache, full beard, goatee, scruff)
- Eye colour (black, blue, green, hazel, grey, brown) and make note of any glasses
- Tattoos, piercings, and distinctive moles or birthmarks

You should also look to see if they carrying anything such as a tool, backpack / bag or weapon. Were they smoking, on the phone or wearing headphones? If you heard them speak, did they have an accent or speech impediment? What did they say? If a vehicle is involved, write down the registration number, colour, make, condition and model. Which way did it leave the area?

Remember to keep a record of the time and date of your observations. These details can be very useful when giving a statement to Police and can help piece together the chain of events.