

CRIME SCENE HIGHLIGHTS



Sharp increase in crime in St Francis Bay

There has been a big increase in crime in the past month in St Francis Bay, mostly break-ins to houses.

According to security companies and the Community Police Forum of St Francis, there was a sharp rise last month in crime statistics for the St Francis area.

The main items being targeted are televisions sets. Unconfirmed reports indicate that there is someone buying and selling stolen items in the St Francis area.

Residents in St Francis are advised to beef up security at their homes and business premises.

Four women robbed by armed men in SFB

Police are apparently still searching for six suspected robbers after they allegedly robbed four women inside a house in St Francis Bay in the first week of July.

Around 3:00 am on 7 July it is alleged that six men stormed into a house in Poivre Crescent, St Francis Bay through an unlocked back door. The six men were wearing balaclavas and two armed with firearms held the

four victims, who were women, inside a house at gunpoint. Suspects stole gadgets such as iPads, laptops and cellphones before fleeing the scene.

No person was injured during the incident. Anyone with information that could lead to the arrest of the suspects is urged to contact the investigating officer, Warrant Officer Jannie Meyer at 071 604 6336.

Petty criminal swims out to sea to avoid capture by cops

There was a moment of high drama at Supertubes, Jeffreys Bay, during a surfing heat when a man, suspected of committing a petty crime on the beach, swam out to sea to behind the breaker line, apparently to avoid the capture of law enforcement officers on 11 July.

Concerns were raised when the man appeared to get into difficulty in the surf.

Rieghard Janse van Rensburg,

NSRI Jeffreys Bay station commander, said: "At 3:30 pm the NSRI Jeffreys Bay duty crew was activated and the sea rescue craft, Discovery Rescue Runner 12 was launched. On arrival at the beach the man was seen leaving the water to go onto the beach, but he was taken into the custody by law enforcement officers without incident."

No further assistance was required by the NSRI.

Men in court on abalone poaching charges

Two men appeared in the Humansdorp court twice this month for being in possession of poached abalone worth R75 000.

The two men were arrested on 10 July around 12:30 pm by Jeffreys Bay SAPS in partnership with Dark Water Ops Anti-Poaching Unit at Waterkant Street near the beach in Waverest. It is believed the two suspects were arrested after the Ops team acted on information of possible poaching of abalone at the beach.

Police seized 475 abalone of 50 kgs, worth R75 000.

The men, Edwin Wait, 51, and Riaan Smit, 49, first appeared in court for possession of illegally poached abalone on 11 July.

Smit was denied bail and will remain in custody, while Wait was released on R3000 bail. The case was remanded to

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18 July for further investigation, when the men were to appear again.

St Francis Chronicle is awaiting a further SAPS report and update.

Woman's body found at Hdorp dump

Police seek assistance of the public in identifying the woman found dead at dumping site in Humansdorp.

On 13 July at about 10 am police were summoned to the municipal dumping site at Felix Street, Humansdorp, after a person collecting metal at the dumping site, allegedly saw a dead woman in the rubbish.

At the scene, police found a lifeless

body of a woman who is believed to be in her 30s with no visible injuries, wearing a black hoodie and maroon pants.

Police appeal to members of the community or relatives who might be missing a loved one to come forward as the body has not yet been identified. Police urge anyone with information to contact Humansdorp SAPS at 042 200 4716.

SFB businesses warned to beef up security

St Francis Bay business people have been warned not to keep cash on their premises overnight and to beef up their security.

This was after a St Francis Bay shop

was robbed of around R36 000 cash and all the stock of cigarettes. The incident happened at night at the beginning of July. It appears the alarm was tampered with by the looters.

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