

Neighbourhood Support

New Zealand



Phone 0800 4NEIGHBOURS

Phone 0800 463 444

www.ns.org.nz

Hitch-Hiking

Whether to hitch-hike or not is a personal choice, but the advice from the Police is that hitch-hiking can be dangerous. Hitch-hikers are sometimes injured or killed in motor accidents. Some have had their personal possessions taken, been assaulted and even murdered.

If you must hitch-hike police recommend hitch-hiking with a companion and avoiding accepting rides from complete strangers. If possible, plan ahead and arrange to go places with someone you know and trust. ALWAYS tell someone where you are going and how long you intend to be away.

Avoid hitching alone in isolated places, especially late at night. Stay in well-lit areas where there are other people and where you can be clearly seen, so if a motorist chooses to stop there is room to pull over safely out of the way of other traffic.

Don't step on to the road where you could get hit or cause an accident to motorists attempting to avoid you. People can be very difficult to see on the side of the road, especially in poor light or if wearing dark clothing.

Police and the tourism industry encourage you to use the Safe TXT message service as another way of letting people know where you are and what you are doing while in New Zealand. Hitch-hikers can use this service to record the registration number of the vehicle they are about to travel in and other information about their journey.

You can send updates about your location and travel movements via TXT to number 7233 [SAFE]. These details are kept on a central database and can be accessed by Police if necessary.

Each TXT message sent to 7233 will be acknowledged by an automated response, which advises you to call 111 and request police assistance if you are in immediate danger.

For more information about the **Safe TXT** message service.

<http://www.telecom.co.nz/content/0,8748,204933-204057,00.html?link=rdt>

<http://www.vodafone.co.nz/aboutus/safe.jsp>