CASE



SECURED IN SECONDS



Source: Supplied by NZ Police.

>> NO INJURIES TO STAFF AND MINIMAL PROPERTY LOSS FOR BUSINESS OWNERS



Source: Jarred Williamson/Stuff

Police Minister Stuart Nash

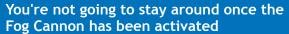
40 PERCENT DECREASE IN REPORTED >> AGGRAVATED ROBBERIES



Hundreds of Fog Cannons have been installed in high-risk areas to cut robberies

PROTECT New Zealand has won a tender issued by the government, and sold hundreds of Fog Cannons to small owner-operated convenience stores, liquor stores and petrol stations.

Prior to this, a dramatically increased tobacco tax led to more night and daytime robberies than normal. Some shop owners were hurt and even killed, which understandably caused a huge upset. Protests and demands started to the government for better protection.



The Fog Cannons are triggered by wireless controllers that could be placed around a store or on a person. The thick wall of fog creates a barrier between offenders and staff and their ultimate goal of cash or cigarettes.

"The fog is very fast and will fill up the area very quickly. It repels the offenders out", Superintendent Jill Rogers said, New Zealand Police.

Hamilton incident shows the effectiveness

Three masked men stormed a Hamilton dairy brandishing a plank of wood and a knife on a Monday morning. But a Fog Cannon sent them fleeing empty handed.

Four offenders were involved, with a woman holding the electronic door open, while the three men entered the store with their weapons. But once the Fog Cannon was deployed, the group fled.

Nobody was injured.



Source: Ryan Anderson/Stuff

40% decrease in robberies

National prevention manager Superintendent Eric Tibbott said Fog Cannons had led to a 40 percent decrease in reported aggravated robberies.

"Where we've put the Fog Cannons in, we've also checked the CCTV, and of those we've had very little property stolen and no violence committed against the victim in those locations so it's very, very effective", Tibbott concludes.

Police Minister Stuart Nash:

"Fog Cannons have been activated by workers in 29 businesses and in all cases, there were no injuries to staff and minimal property loss for business owners.

There were 21 robberies in December 2019, a fall of more than 70 percent on the 78 robberies in April 2017."

Source: Stuff.co.nz

