



HDC NEWS



New tool in Council noise control toolbox



A peaceful night's sleep is more likely now Council's noise control officers can issue fines for excessive and unreasonable noise, such as loud stereos and other late night shenanigans.

Starting Monday 16 October fines of \$500 and \$750 will be used as an extra deterrent for those who repeatedly ignore verbal warnings to turn their stereos down.

Council's Group Manager of Environmental and Planning Services Peter Thom says in the majority of cases the current system of uplifting equipment is failing to deter loud party goers.

"Being able to issue an infringement fine would result in an instant consequence and hopefully be more of a deterrent than seizing equipment that can generally be replaced pretty cheaply and easily," he said.

Discretion would be applied to the issuing of fines, which he says will only be used as a last resort in cases where verbal warnings are ignored.

"Last year we received 278 excessive noise callouts after hours. Of those around 30 were repeat offences and 12 were from the same address," said Thom.

It's hoped the new tool will reduce the number of noise complaints and lead to more consideration for others within the community.

This week we're supporting GET READY WEEK 2017



IN AN EMERGENCY
STAY SAFE
STAY INFORMED



RADIO



ONLINE



KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS



EMERGENCY MOBILE ALERT



Neighbourhood Noise

- It's reasonable to expect some noise in your neighbourhood from time-to-time.
- Noise control is not about regulating everyday residential activities such as mowing lawns and water-blasting the house etc.
- If you have a problem with noisy neighbours, try having a friendly word with them over the fence first. Often this achieves the best results.
- While it may be a temporary nuisance for you, provided the hours of operation are reasonable, noise control may not consider noise excessive or unreasonable.



Be a good neighbour

- If you are planning a party, building a deck, or hosting a working bee on your property, let your neighbours know beforehand.
- Mow your lawns or start your chainsaw at reasonable times during daylight hours. At the weekends or on public holidays, avoid cranking up the mower at first light.
- Comply with any resource consent noise restrictions for commercial land development or construction work.
- Reduce noise at a reasonable hour – particularly when neighbours are sleeping later in the evening.



How can I make a noise complaint?

- Ring the Council at any time of the day or night on 0800 734 834
- It's important to phone when the noise is occurring so that action can be taken straight away.

For more information

go to www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/services/noise-control

Organised by the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, Get Ready Week is a chance for everyone to take steps to be more prepared.

The theme for Get Ready Week this year is Stay Safe, Stay Informed. Emergencies can happen anywhere, any time, and without warning. Make sure you and the people you care about are ready to get through by knowing the different ways to stay informed.

Radio

If the power goes out, a solar or battery powered radio (or your car radio) can help you keep up to date with the latest news. In an emergency, tune in to these stations:

- Radio New Zealand
- The Hits
- NewstalkZB
- MoreFM
- Radio Live

Online

For local updates, check our website and Facebook page, as well as your local Civil Defence Emergency Management website and social media.

For national updates, follow the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management on Facebook and Twitter.

Know your neighbours

There's strength in numbers. In an emergency, you can work with your neighbours to get through. Neighbourhood Support Groups bring local people together to create safe, supportive and connected communities. Join Neighbourhood Support at neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz or call 0800 463 444.

Emergency Mobile Alert (coming soon)

Emergency Mobile Alert will be a new way of receiving information about emergencies in your area. If your life, health or property is in danger, Emergency Mobile Alerts can be sent to your mobile, without needing to sign up or download an app. Emergency Mobile Alert is expected to be available by the end of 2017.