

Public Safety Alert - The Use of Noxious Substances

Written by Shawna Fowler | September 26, 2025 at 03:07:pm



The Saint John Police are warning the public following an increase in reported incidents involving the use of noxious substances, more commonly referred to as bear spray, in recent weeks.

Bear mace or spray is designed to be used as a protective tool against aggressive wildlife, not to be used against humans. This powerful chemical irritant is dangerous when used on another person; exposure can cause significant pain, breathing difficulties, and long-term injury. It is a criminal offence to deploy a noxious substance at another person and will result in serious criminal charges.

Police have responded to multiple incidents where individuals were intentionally sprayed, often during altercations. These attacks put victims, bystanders, and responding officers at risk.

Police are encouraging the public to:

- Report any incident involving a noxious substance such as bear spray immediately.
- Be aware of your surroundings and exercise caution when a deployment has been made.
- Secure bear mace responsibly and keep it out of the hands of children.

“Our priority is public safety. The increase of these incidents is very concerning. We will be taking a zero-tolerance enforcement approach to ensure the safety of our community.” Chief R.M. Bruce

Together a safe, secure, healthy community

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