Fredericton POLICE FORCE

Crime Mapping Project - Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is crime mapping?

Crime mapping is a tool used to plot various types of crime that are occurring in the City. The Fredericton Police Force Crime Mapping Project was part of a Lean Six Sigma project to reduce the time spent in creating crime maps. The new process is much more efficient, and will help us better inform the public about what is going on crime-wise in the community. It is our goal to provide citizens with the tools they need to protect themselves from becoming a victim of a crime in the future.

2. Who does the mapping?

The Fredericton Police Force has a full-time crime analyst, whose job is to collect, analyse, disseminate and evaluate crime data to discover patterns, trends and changes in criminal activity. The Crime Analyst is a member of the Crime Reduction Intelligence Team (CRIT), in the Neighbourhood Action Team.

3. Where does the FPF get the data?

Crime mapping data is generated from the Fredericton Police Force's integrated system called Versadex, and data specific to our community.

4. What types of crimes will be plotted?

At this time, seven specific crime types will be mapped: robbery, arson, break & enter, property damage, motor vehicle theft, theft from a motor vehicle, and general theft.

5. Where can I find the map?

You can access the map on the Fredericton Police Force website - www.frederictonpolice.com

6. When will the map be updated?

Crime Maps are produced on a weekly basis, from Wednesday to Tuesday. Maps will be updated on the website by Thursday morning each week.

7. Why is this information important for the public to know?

The Fredericton Police Force hopes that providing information to the public they will become more aware of what is happening in the community. We want to arm people with information to prevent crimes, and even ultimately reduce the number of crimes that occur, or assist police in solving crimes in Fredericton.

8. Will this generate fear in residents of Fredericton?

Our goal with crime mapping is not to instill fear in the public, but to raise awareness about the types of crimes that are occurring and engage residents in how to reduce and prevent crimes from taking place. We are aiming to be more transparent, and hoping to provide more information on how citizens can reduce and prevent crime in their neighbourhoods.

9. What are the future plans for the crime mapping project?

The initial phase of the crime mapping project is to provide information to the public so that they can better arm themselves against being victims of crime. Future plans may also include sharing crime reports using social media, using crime map trends to build public safety and crime prevention messages, and updating the public on occurrences more frequently.

10. How can a citizen report crime in Fredericton?

Crime can be reported by calling the Fredericton Police Force at 460-2300. In case of an emergency, always dial 9-1-1.

11. In addition to posting maps, will the FPF be releasing more information about incidents?

Right now, the focus will only be on updating the crime maps on a weekly basis. As has always been the case, if there is a trend that the public should be aware of, or there is a specific incident of public concern or safety, additional information will be release via press release from the Office of Communications & Public Affairs.

12. By releasing these maps to the public will you be affecting the safety and privacy of victims of crime?

One of the reasons the crime maps are static is not to pinpoint the exact location that a crime took place. The crimes that are plotted are located in a general area, and are not associated with any specific civic address so as to protect the privacy of the victims.

13. Will maps ever be made interactive?

There are no plans right now to make the maps interactive.

14. Is this the first crime mapping project in the Province?

No. The Saint John Police Force currently offers public crime mapping as well.

15. Why are violent crimes not being mapped?

The seven crime types being mapped were selected because citizens can take an active role to protect themselves from becoming a victim if armed with the right information. We want the public to know about these crimes, and provide information on what people can do to protect themselves. These types of crimes (against property) are the most prevalent in Fredericton (64% of all reported crime).

16. Are all crimes reported in the City plotted on the map?

No. The maps provide only a snapshot of crime occurring in the City at any given time. On average, the Fredericton Police Force responds to more than 20,000 calls for service each year, and investigates around 7,000 reported crimes annually.