



enhanced by Google

Police warn on tyre spike danger

MERCURY

- Font size: [Decrease](#) (#) [Increase](#) (#) Article from: [\(http://www.news.com.au/mercury/\)](http://www.news.com.au/mercury/)
- Email article: [Email \(/mercury/email/popup/0,22904,23739477-3462,00.html\)](mailto:/mercury/email/popup/0,22904,23739477-3462,00.html)
- Print article: [Print](#) (`javascript:print();`)
- Submit comment: [Submit comment](#) (`#submit-feedback`)

LINDA SMITH

May 22, 2008 12:00am

HUNDREDS of motorists are having their tyres punctured by road spikes thrown on to roads in Hobart's northern suburbs by vandals.

The two-pronged metal caltrops have punctured tyres on major roads and highways in Goodwood, Glenorchy, Lutana, Moonah and Derwent Park during the past month.

Drivers have told police of tyres flattened by the spiked metal devices, the *Mercury* has been inundated with calls from frustrated drivers, and northern suburbs tyre shops are doing a roaring trade.

Some newspaper delivery drivers are refusing to deliver newspapers because of damage to their cars.

Hydro Tasmania, the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources and Glenorchy City Council emailed hundreds of staff yesterday, warning those who drove in the suburbs.

The emails said Moonah, Glenorchy and Lutana were worst-hit, with "a huge number" of spikes on the road near Fletcher Ave, Bayswater Rd, Butler Ave, Central Ave, Lampton Avenue and Gepp Parade.

The emails said police had received 150 reports of serious damage to tyres.

Glenorchy police said the figure was wrong and there had only been a handful of recent complaints.

But staff at tyre shops suggest hundreds of drivers had been affected.

Staff at one of the three major tyre outlets in the northern suburbs have done between 60 and 80 repairs to punctures caused by road spikes in the past month, as well as selling new tyres to many people whose tyres were damaged beyond repair.

They estimated other tyre outlets would be seeing a similar numbers of customers, leading to estimates of hundreds of cases.

The spikes cause a slow leak in tyres, and it costs about \$25 at tyre shops to repair each puncture.

The spikes are designed so that one spike points upwards to pierce a tyre passing over it however they lie on the road, and their dark colour makes them hard to see.

A northern suburbs newsagent said one driver had run over about six spikes and ruined two tyres before quitting.

The newsagent said Glenorchy City Council street sweepers had been trying to clean up the roads, but the problem was still occurring.

Glenorchy Police Divisional Inspector John Arnold was reluctant to talk about the road spikes yesterday in fear of encouraging copy cats.

He said some spikes had been handed in to police and others were picked up off the road by patrolling officers after complaints were made.

He said police were trying to determine whether the metal objects were produced in bulk by a metalworks and had another purpose, or if they were being made in a backyard shed specifically to puncture tyres.

Spikes have been sent for lab testing and investigations are continuing.

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF THE TYRE SPIKES WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR, STORY CALL THE MERCURY ON 6200729 OR LEAVE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS IN THE READERS COMMENT BOX BELOW

Share this article [What is this?](#) (#)

- [Digg this](#) (#)
- [Post to del.icio.us](#)
(*javascript:location.href='http://del.icio.us/post?v=4;url='+encodeURIComponent(location.href)+';title='+encodeURIComponent*)
- [Post to Newsvine](#) (#)
- Font size: [Decrease](#) (#) [Increase](#) (#)
- Email article: [Email](#) (*/mercury/email/popup/0,22904,23739477-3462,00.html*)
- Print article: [Print](#) (*javascript:print();*)

Ads By Google

- [Tasmania Court Record](#)

Search anyones court records now Online public record resources.

Court-Records.Gov-Reports.net

(*http://pagead2.googlesyndication.com/pagead/iclk?sa=l&ai=BGoGdhlo8SLeDL4PsqAOG0ZD5BOD4IDvcu5_tA&*

- [Tyre Pressure Safety Caps](#)

For bikes, cars and trucks simple, smart easy and cheap

www.candl.org/shopentrance.html

(*http://pagead2.googlesyndication.com/pagead/iclk?sa=l&ai=BVIxahlo8SLeDL4PsqAOG0ZD5BlvV8l-N4fKjB8CN*

- [Cheap Tasmanian Holiday](#)

Guaranteed Low Holiday Prices! Cheap Hotels, Flights, Cars & More

www.EscapeTravel.com.au

(*http://pagead2.googlesyndication.com/pagead/iclk?sa=l&ai=BrpGIhlo8SLeDL4PsqAOG0ZD5BPfdtFDJn5mzA8C*

Search for more stories on this topic on **Newstext** (<http://www.newstext.com.au>) , our news archive service. **Click here** (<http://www.newstext.com.au>)

© 2008 Davies Brothers Pty Limited. All times AEST (GMT +10).

(http://mercury.tiser.com.au/ADCLICK/CID=ffffffcffffffcffffffc/acc_random=97181458/SITE=TMRC/AREA=NEWS.RO)