

Cochrane Foothills Protective Association



'REPORTER'

CFPA Reporting Application

In response to member concerns and identified gaps in rural crime prevention the CFPA has been developing a Reporting Application 'Reporter'. The initial prototype version of 'Reporter' is set to be launched at the CFPA AGM in April 2018.

Problem Statement and Motivation

Upon listening to our members and our partners concerns, the CFPA has identified several issues of concern with regards to the reporting and sharing of incidents in the rural community.

Incidents include reports of suspicious activity, garbage dumped, vandalism, attempted or successful thefts, attempted or successful break ins, and any number of other violations of public peace, safety, and security.

Currently, non-emergency incidents can only be reported to authorities via phone or email. This isn't always a viable mechanism, especially if people are concerned about potential delays or privacy issues. Further, incidents reported in this manner are not always discoverable by or reported to people in the immediate vicinity of the incident.

There is often a concern that the incident may not be 'serious' enough to report. Additionally, it is often difficult for authorities to provide meaningful statistics to members about what is going on in their local neighborhoods.

Out of this gap in the reporting of incidents and notification of localized activity, to facilitate the sharing of information between fellow members, and in keeping with the CFPA's role of being the 'eyes and ears' in the rural community, the Reporter Application was created.

Basic Description

The CFPA Reporter Application aka 'Reporter' is a web application that allows its members to report incidents wherever they see them and share that information with fellow members.

Being a browser-based application, this application will work with any device that has a relatively modern web browser (this includes most desktop and laptop computers as well as most brands of smart phone, tablet, and other portable devices, and even some TV's and household appliances). If you have a device that runs a relatively modern web browser, you will be able to use 'Reporter'.

Being a volunteer effort, the initial list of functionalities at launch is intentionally limited so we can gather feedback from our members to help direct and focus our efforts on the largest impact to our members.

Initial Functionality

On launch, a member will be able to:

- report non-emergency incidents tagged geographically with GPS co-ordinates
- view other non-emergency reporting contact information (phone numbers, email etc)
- view all incidents reported by fellow members within a date range

All incidents are displayed on a satellite map (via Google Maps), as well as viewable as a list of incidents. Full incident details can be displayed on further navigation.

In recognition that crime knows no boundaries, there is no real limitation to where incidents can be reported as occurring. If the location has a GPS co-ordinate, it can be reported and displayed with 'Reporter'.

What Reporter Can **NOT** do

'Reporter' is **NOT** intended to replace the use of **911** for reporting serious incidents.

Unfortunately, 'Reporter' is currently not able to directly forward incident reports to responders such as RCMP or County services. However, CFPA is happy to provide access to all reported incidents to RCMP members or any other authorized personnel.

Future Functionality

Among the many potential future pieces of functionality are:

- support for inclusion of photos or other media to incidents
- addition of identifiable 'community' tags used for additional filter of incidents
- addition of automatic notification of incidents in your specified community or area of concern.
- addition of a shared 'tips' board for sharing of security tips between members
- integration with single sign-on (ie using Facebook, google, twitter, or other social media accounts)
- addition of member self - management to allow online registration and payment of members dues
- development of dedicated iOS or Android native apps for better device integration and performance
- other desired functionality as identified by members

CFPA plans to consult with the various responders to investigate the potential for forwarding incidents on to any appropriate systems.

Support of Other APRCW Chapter Members

The design of 'Reporter' lends itself to easily support other APRCW chapters and their members. Every member account can be associated with one or more-chapter associations. Other chapters may be asked to help share any ongoing maintenance or hosting costs related to 'Reporter'.

Conclusion

CFPA hopes that 'Reporter' will encourage members to report incidents more frequently and provide meaningful feedback to members with regards to incidents in their local areas.

We are all the 'eyes and ears' in our respective communities, and the better we share information about what's happening the harder it becomes for criminals to take advantage of rural communities.

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