

“P” Lab explosion at s9(2)(a) Road

On Saturday 10 January 2009 a fire started at the Housing New Zealand Corporation property at s9(2)(a) Road, Grey Lynn, Auckland. The fire was caused by an explosion that occurred while the tenant was cooking methamphetamine.

The Corporation understands that the tenant of s9(2)(a) Road did not receive any injuries from the fire. However, a neighbour who had tried to extinguish the fire was admitted to hospital with smoke inhalation, and later discharged.

The house at s9(2)(a) Road was gutted by the fire and is beyond repair. The estimated value of the property was \$300,000.

Tenancy

The tenant of s9(2)(a) Road has lived there since August 2005, paid an income related rent for the one-bedroom property, and their main source of income is the Invalids Benefit. A tenancy manager last inspected s9(2)(a) Road on 11 November 2008, as scheduled, and did not find anything unusual.

The tenant has told the Corporation that they were cooking “P” for the s9(2)(a) gang, and the Police have confirmed that the tenant has connections to this gang. The tenant is due to appear in court today, 12 January 2009, on charges of manufacturing methamphetamine and wilful damage.

Damage to s9(2)(a) Road

A neighbouring Corporation property, at s9(2)(a) Road, was also damaged, as heat from the fire burnt through a piece of its roof and damaged the bathroom. The tenants were unharmed and are now staying with relatives, as s9(2)(a) Road has no power. The Corporation will transfer them to s9(2)(a) Road, Grey Lynn, which is one street away from Ivanhoe Road.

Further action

The Fire Service and Police will provide the Corporation with detailed reports about the incident and the Corporation will then follow its standard procedures for fire damaged and “P” Lab properties. This includes having the property at s9(2)(a) Road tested and cleaned, at an approximate cost of \$13,000. The Corporation has yet to consider recovery of costs from the tenant of s9(2)(a) Road for the damages.

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