

# Magic mist makes crims glow away



Currumbin Surf Life Saving Club manager Mark Perkins tests the anti-bandit DNA spray

Photo: SCOTT FLETCHER

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THE latest defence against armed robbers is a spray which brands the criminals for at least six weeks.

After 93 armed hold-ups, Gold Coast businesses have turned to the latest in security technology: DNA marking.

Currumbin Vikings Surf Life Saving Club and Freedom St Clair's service station at Southport have become the first club and servo to adopt the revolutionary technology. Mounted above doors or from

ceilings and activated by a panic button or alarm, the DNA Guardian sprays a fine mist of water laced with a fluorescent dye and single-strand synthetic DNA.

The DNA dye cannot be scrubbed off, sticking to the skin for at least six weeks, and is immediately identifiable under black forensic lights.

It can be matched with the business's unique DNA signature.

"It operates on the methodology of perpetrator marking, like a forensic fingerprint," said Jeffrey Murray, business manager for DNA Security Solutions.

"The perpetrator can be immediately placed at the scene of the crime.

"As one detective said to me, 'he was glowing like a Christmas tree in the watchhouse'."

Mr Murray said the product had been successfully used in Adelaide and was starting to catch on in Queensland.

Surf club manager Mark Perkins decided to install the device to protect his staff.

"I just want to make sure they have a really good, safe working environment, the safer I can make it

the happier I'll be and the happier they'll be. It's a good deterrent," Mr Perkins said.

He said the club spent up to \$100,000 on security each year, with the additional \$3750 cost of the new DNA spray well worth it.

Freedom St Clair's service station second-in-command Robert Foott said the Nerang St business had boosted security after being broken into in March last year.

"It marks you. All the police have to do is shine a black light on (the offender) and he will glow in the dark like at a nightclub."