



Lethal: Mundaring ranger John Balcombe with lengths of nailed timber. Wire strung head-high was removed. Picture: Barry Baker

## Bush vigilantes set traps for dirt-bikers

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Vigilantes are stringing wire between trees and hiding spiked planks on a Mundaring bush trail in a dangerous bid to ambush illegal dirt-bike riders.

Rangers claim the traps are also threatening walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and others who are allowed to use Railway Reserve Heritage Trail between Glen Forrest and Chidlow.

Some devices have even been found on gazetted tracks open to registered and licensed motorcycle riders.

One rider, who did not want to be named, rode into a cable strung between two trees in March.

He claimed he was lucky to be alive, saying he just caught a glimpse of the wire glittering in the sunlight as he raced towards it. "I slammed on the brakes but I knew I would hit it and the wire was neck-high," he said.

He swung his handlebars down and tried to duck but the wire hooked on to his right bicep, ripping him off his bike and tearing through his padded clothing. His arm was numb and

swollen for hours but the protective clothing saved him from permanent injuries.

Mundaring chief executive Jonathan Throssell said motorcycles were banned in some areas where the traps were found. But he said that did not excuse the actions of the trap-setters.

"The shire is appealing to those responsible to stop setting such traps before someone is severely injured," he said. People convicted of setting dangerous traps could face three years jail, a police spokesman said.

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