

Working Together for a Safer Community

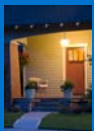


Crime is an unfortunate fact of everyday life, but with some thoughtful collaboration, communities and local law enforcement agencies can work together to build partnerships and enhance public safety. By working together with local law enforcement, neighbors can help reduce crime while building safer, happier, healthier neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Tips



Keep spare keys with a trusted neighbor, not hidden under a doormat or in the mailbox. Keep your doors locked whether you are at home or away and never open your door to anyone that you do not know.



Illuminate or eliminate the places that an intruder might hide, such as the spaces between trees or shrubs, stairwells, alleys, and entry ways. Install motion-detection lighting and trim shrubbery that obscures the doors or windows of your home. Consider investing in an alarm system.



Half of all home burglaries occur during the day. If you see anyone suspicious walking or driving around your neighborhood, notify the police. Secure your vehicle. A high percentage of automobile break-ins involve unlocked vehicles.



TIPS FOR PARENTS

Have kids tell you or ask permission before leaving the house. Whenever possible, have them leave a phone number of where they will be. Meet your children's friends, as well as their parents. Have kids memorize important phone numbers and addresses.

Talk to children about crossing busy roads, playing in alleys, and near abandoned buildings.

Establish a neighbor's house where children can go if they need help in an emergency, as well as other safe places, such as libraries, fire stations, and police stations.

Teach kids to settle arguments with words, not fists. Teach them to talk things out, walk away from fist fights, and what to do when confronted by bullies.

HOLD REGULAR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETINGS TO HELP RESIDENTS GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.



- Work with the police or sheriff's office as a source of necessary information and training. Gather the facts about crime in your area.
- Consider coordinating with an existing organization, such as a citizens' association, community development office, tenants' association, or housing authority. Involve local business leaders.
- Translate crime and drug prevention materials into Spanish or other languages needed by non-English speakers. If necessary, have a translator at meetings.
- Sponsor a crime and drug prevention fair at a local gathering place, such as a church hall, temple, or community center. Sponsor community cleanups.



- Start a block parent program to help children prepare for emergencies that may occur while walking to and from school or playing in the area.
- Emphasize that Neighborhood Watch groups are not vigilantes. Their duty is to encourage neighbors to be alert, observant, and caring—and to report suspicious activity immediately to local law enforcement.

START A CONVERSATION

Invite neighbors and local law enforcement officials into your living room.

Use the small group setting to promote an open dialogue and use the opportunity to get to know your local law enforcement officers.



Foster Positive Youth Outreach



Build a connection between young people and law enforcement. Give youth the opportunity to speak openly and work to build respect and mutual understanding.

Making a Difference Together

When neighbors, business leaders, youth, and law enforcement work together, the sum of those collaborations equals a better way of life for everyone.