

Block Watch Guide

Neighbors knowing, caring and looking out for each other



This information is provided courtesy of the Longview Police Department



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Module 2 - Home Safety/CPTED

Block Watch Module 2

Home Safety / CPTED

*Module 2 of our Block Watch series focuses on home safety and a program called CPTED - **C**rime **P**revention **T**hrough **E**nvironmental **D**esign. In addition to your meeting agenda, you will also find principles about CPTED and a Safety Survey & Inspection form for your home and/or property.*

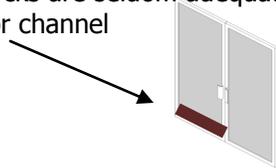
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Home Security

Meeting 2

1. Perimeter
 - a. If you have gates to back yards, they should be locked
 - b. Meter reader dates are usually printed on your utility bills
 - c. Side yards that are hidden from street view should be fenced
 - d. Front door and windows should be visible from the street
2. Doors
 - a. Dead bolt locks
 - i. Door knob locks alone are not adequate
 - ii. Example of why you need a deadbolt "Door Knob Twist Burglary"
 1. The deadbolt usually has a bolt about 1" long, compared to 1/2" or shorter for the other type. Obviously that extra 1/2" is a real plus when someone tries to kick the door open, or pry it open with a tire-tool. In addition, most, though not all, deadbolts have a rotating collar that fastens around the lock on the outside half of the door. If someone tries to fit a wrench to it, to twist and break it, the collar will rotate around harmlessly, protecting the lock. So, a deadbolt can help protect your door from kicking, prying and wrenches.
 - b. The difference between single and double cylinder dead bolt locks
 - i. See door knob illustration - Any door within 40 inches of a window or other glass should be equipped with a dual cylinder lock.
3. Peepholes
 - a. Cheap and easy to install
 - b. Provide view of outside without compromising security of the door and without having to open the door
 - c. Good for merchants with a back door
4. Sliding doors
 - a. Dead bolt locks are available and can be keyed to match existing door locks
 - b. Other means of securing sliding doors
 - i. Charley Bars - metal bars that attach to prevent the door from sliding
 - ii. Manufacturer locks are seldom adequate
 - iii. Stick in the door channel
5. Windows
 - a. Should be equipped with sheet metal screws in upper track to prevent the window from being pushed up and out of locking position
 - B. Pins and nails can be used to secure the window
 - c. Dowels are also effective as "Charley Bars"
 - d. Screens and glass should be kept in good repair
 - e. Check your lock stores and ask about new inventions
6. Lighting
 - a. Mercury Vapor lights are a great low cost light with electric eyes that turn on in the evening and off during hours of daylight
 - b. Outside lights at all outside doors
 - c. Light up areas of possible entry
 - d. Put lights up high enough that bulbs cannot be stolen or unscrewed
 - e. Sensor or timed lights



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Home Security

Meeting 2

7. Locks/Padlocks
 - a. Locks should never be left unlocked—a thief can replace another lock that appears to be the same lock and later return with a key and gain easy access. Then the thief can replace the original lock and the means of entry cannot be determined.
 - b. When the padlock is not in use, it should be padlocked to the hasp to prevent removal.
 - c. Bottom of the lock provides a keying code so that duplicates can be made - manufacturers recommend that these numbers be removed and kept in a safe place.
 - d. Check your lock stores for the newest innovations.

8. Garage Doors
 - a. Should always be kept down and locked, even when you are home during the day.
 - b. If kept up - security systems such as the Driveway Wireless Alert System can be used. A lock employee could be invited to introduce products.
 - c. Man door should be kept locked between the garage and house.
 - d. Have the dip switches on the automatic garage door opener and the code on your hand-held opener the same so that it cannot be opened by a random opener.
 - e. Or . . . Unplug your garage door opener when not in use (if convenient).
 - f. If going out of town, use manual lock on inside of garage door.

9. Cameras/Security Systems that alert phones.

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"The CPTED" Planning Tool

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

*The physical design of your neighborhood, its layout and built environment, can affect the levels of crime and fear in your neighborhood. Many people have studied this relationship. They have pinpointed some basic design principles that seem to reduce fear and prevent crime in communities. This field of study is called **C**riminal **P**revention **T**hrough **E**nvironmental **D**esign," or CPTED (pronounced sep-ted).*

The three basic principles of CPTED

1. **Natural Surveillance** - Humans feel safer in places where they can see what is going on around them. Law-abiding citizens also feel safer in settings where they are visible to other law abiding people. Examples of good design features that promote natural surveillance are:
 - a. Good lighting of front porches, yards, streets, alleys and parking areas.
 - b. Landscaping that does not provide hiding places for would-be perpetrators. The "3-6" rule of thumb. (Hedges and shrubs no higher than 3' and tree canopies starting no lower than 6', trim up or cut back if needed).
 - c. See-through types of fencing.
 - d. Windows that look out upon streets and alleys, bay windows especially.

2. **Natural Access Control** - would-be perpetrators of crime like settings that they can enter and leave without being noticed. They do not like places with only one legitimate point of entry and exit. This is especially true if there are people at that entry/exit who might remember the perpetrator and identify him or her later.

3. **Territorial / Defensible Space** - many researchers of animal behavior have demonstrated that an animal currently in possession of a territory has more confidence than a challenging animal and usually wins a battle. A basic principle of CPTED is that law-abiding citizens should *show* that they "own" the territory. This discourages crime in the neighborhood.
 - a. At most basic levels this means that people in the neighborhood should be *encouraged* to put their personal touches on their homes, apartments and businesses. Here are some examples:
 - i. Bright flowers in planters on apartment balconies and in business districts.
 - ii. Vegetable and flower gardens in the planting strips in front of homes and apartments.
 - iii. Whirligigs.
 - iv. Seasonal decorations in commercial districts.
 - v. Outdoor holiday lights on homes and apartments.
 - b. Some good territorial behavior through design means encouraging such features as:
 - i. Front porches on houses and apartment buildings.
 - ii. Traffic plans that avoid one-way streets through neighborhood business districts.
 - iii. Neighborhood traffic calming.
 - iv. Institutional architecture that respects and contributes to neighborhood identity.
 - v. Design that clearly shows the difference between leading up to the property and private, semi-private and public areas.

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A comprehensive CPTED review would include:

- ◆ Noting the physical layout and design of the area
- ◆ Visiting the site during the day and during the night to see what types of activities take place and identifying activity and impact, both positive and negative.
- ◆ Determining how activities cycle and how that may affect the area. Activities may be different on different days of the week, weeks of the month seasonally.
- ◆ A safety audit (work with Police Department on this).
- ◆ Identifying areas with likely "edge effects." Locations on the edges of different types of areas often have higher crime rates (e.g. an alleyway between a commercial area and a residential area, paths by houses, alley access).

Neighborhood review

- ◆ Conduct surveys to determine crime and safety concerns in the area.
- ◆ Review local demographics, forecasts of population growth, any existing plans for transportation or other issues to gain a better understanding of the area.

User identification

- ◆ Identify those who currently use the area (residents, workers, young people, elderly people, etc.)
- ◆ Review how the area is being used for work, play, entertainment or other purposes.
- ◆ Know the street sweeper schedule.
- ◆ Ascertain why certain paths, sidewalks or streets are being used or not being used (e.g. path that is overgrown, lighting at night, loitering site, etc.).
- ◆ Look for areas where there are conflicts among user groups (for example, an elderly person walking to a grocery store on the same sidewalk used by a skateboarder in the afternoon after school).
- ◆ Research ways to reduce or eliminate conflicts.

Risk Assessment

- ◆ Analyze crime data with the Community Services Liaison to dispel or validate the reputation of the area. Are there any hot spots (unusually active areas) that need attention?
- ◆ Police officers will also be able to provide first-hand information on the types of activities and persons they have handled or activity generators in the area.
- ◆ Use this information to develop strategies to reduce crime and calls for police service, and to increase public safety.



