

## NCPC and ADT: Joining Forces To Prevent Crime

Dear Neighbor:

As you may know, each year America celebrates October as Crime Prevention Month. You may be wondering what that celebration means to you, your family, your community, and your school. We're pleased to welcome you to this supplement, a tool for you to learn about how to create safer places to live, learn, and play in October and throughout the year. In it you'll find tips, quizzes, lists you can use to check out safety issues at home and at school, important information about how to stay safe if you're home alone, fun facts about McGruff®, and more. We invite you to use the activities in the supplement to challenge yourself, your friends, and your family to do more to "watch out and help out" in the effort to prevent crime.

The National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign run by the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) has been the hub of crime prevention activity in America for 26 years. Throughout that time, NCPC has been guided in its work by America's beloved symbol of crime prevention, McGruff the Crime Dog®. Did you know that McGruff's famous "Take A Bite Out Of Crime®" slogan is recognized by seven out of ten adults and children? Together, McGruff and NCPC have encouraged citizens to get involved in community safety through ads on television, radio, and in the newspaper; trained law enforcement officers in crime prevention; provided teachers and students information on how to help create safer schools; shared safety tips with millions of children and parents through the www.mcgruff.org website; shared safety tips with millions of adults through the www.ncpc.org website; and helped countless cities mobilize neighborhood groups and volunteers to fight crime.

Throughout these efforts, NCPC has gotten a lot of help to do its job. No partner has done more to help NCPC and McGruff keep you and your community safe than ADT Security Services, Inc. ADT's generous sponsorship has made it possible for NCPC to produce and distribute several hundred million safety brochures; reach tens of millions of Americans with safety messages through ADT-sponsored ads; organize appearances by McGruff in partnership with dozens of local law enforcement agencies; help millions of Americans learn how to prevent home burglaries, identity theft, and violence at school; and help keep senior citizens safe. In January 2002, only months after the attacks of September 11, ADT also sponsored distribution of some of the first messages to America about what individuals could do to be prepared and help combat terrorism.

We believe strongly that citizen involvement in crime prevention strategies has played a vital role in helping many communities stay safe over the past decade. However, more than 20 million Americans were victimized by crime last year, and, with hometown security a persistent concern, much work is left to be done. We know that young people are a vital resource for their communities' safety initiatives and can do a great deal to help keep themselves, their homes, and their schools safe. Check out the activities in this supplement and show everyone what you know and what you can accomplish!

Thank you for all that you do to help "Take A Bite Out of Crime"! America needs your energy and commitment to keep it safe from crime and terrorism. If you or your family would like more information about how to prevent crime and build a stronger, more secure community, please visit NCPC at www.ncpc.org or call 800-NCPC-911. For more information about how to secure your home, school, or business, please visit ADT at www.adt.com.

Sincerely,

Alfonso E. Lenhardt President and CEO National Crime Prevention Council Ann Lindstrom Director of Corporate Communications ADT Security Services, Inc.

## Help McGruff Prevent Crime! Give To CFC #0840

A safer America is everyone's business! Your contributions make it possible for McGruff to help Americans "Take A Bite Out Of Crime®." For 26 years, McGruff has been serving communities like yours across America. His messages have motivated millions through public service ads, training events, publications, websites, and more.

Are you, or is someone in your family, a federal employee, a member of the military, or a postal employee? If so, you are eligible to participate in the 2006 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) launched this month. The

CFC provides an opportunity to donate to a charitable organization and help support its important mission.

Please consider making a contribution to support Mc-Gruff (CFC# 0840) and his efforts to help law enforcement protect children and youth, mobilize neighborhood volunteers, educate the public on crime prevention basics, and respond to emerging crimes such as identity theft and Internet crimes against children. Thank you for your support! For more details on NCPC and McGruff, visit www.ncpc.org.

# Crime Prevention Resonates with Citizen-Police Partnerships

The glaring headlines about the summer's spike in street crime obscured the success of crime prevention measures across the country. These measures have helped to reduce overall crime rates dramatically from one coast to another.

Troubling as the recent surge in juvenile crime may be, the truth is that crime remains at historically low figures. The summer's headlines would have us believe that the work of police and citizens over the last decade has come undone, but a look at national crime statistics gathered by the U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics tells a different story. According to the bureau, violent crime rates (violent crimes are rape, robbery, aggravated and simple assault, and homicide) have declined since 1994, reaching the lowest level ever recorded in 2004. Robbery rates declined after 1994, reaching the lowest level ever recorded in 2004. And after many years of decline, burglary rates topped out at 111.8 per 1,000 households in 1974 and dropped to 29.6 per 1,000 households in 2004.

The fact is that many people once driven inside their homes, behind locked doors, are back sitting on their porches, enjoying their parks, and walking to their corner stores. Across the country, in one town after another, crime rates have plummeted. It's not like that everywhere, of course, but progress has been made. There are many reasons why, but among them are the twin pillars of crime prevention and community policing. Law enforcement officers have become problem solvers in the community. In many communities, urban, suburban, and rural, citizens have worked with local law enforcement to develop strategies to prevent crime before it happens. And the action by citizens to work with each other and with their local police to take back their streets and neighborhoods one step, one corner, one block at a time has made a real difference in the lives of many citizens, young and old. The pages that follow include some examples of what folks and police across the country, working together, are doing.



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## Crime Prevention from Coast to Coast

San Diego, California: Retired seniors are making a difference in San Diego by taking part in the Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) Program of the San Diego Police Department. Volunteers in the RSVP program help observe and patrol neighborhoods, perform home checks for vacationing citizens, visit homebound and isolated persons, assist detectives in distributing crime alerts or crime prevention information, and conduct surveys.

Seniors and others can also participate in the Volunteers in Police Service program. These volunteers assist the San Diego Police Department by taking cold crime reports, fingerprinting, offering translation services, providing the department with various computer and other administrative skills, and participating in the Crisis Intervention Volunteer Unit. The volunteers in this unit are specially trained to respond to scenes at the request of an officer, where they provided immediate emotional support for victims and witnesses of crimes and other traumatic events.

Billings, Montana: Many of the Volunteers who work with Police Service volunteers in the Billings Police Department work in one of three Community Oriented Policing (COP) Shops located around the city. At the COP Shops, volunteers assist the department by taking police reports on cold calls pertaining to theft, vandalism, traffic, and lost-and-found property. Volunteers contact vic-

tims of crimes when their cases are inactivated or when additional information is needed. COP Shop volunteers also phone individuals who have an arrest warrant for traffic and misdemeanor offenses, encourage them to clear the warrants, and offer them payment options.

Hamilton County, OH: Citizens of Hamilton County are safer today thanks to a unique partnership between local real estate agents and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Launched by real estate agents in concert with law enforcement, Real Estate Watch works much like a Neighborhood Watch program, with the Sheriff's Office providing training on how to recognize and report suspicious activity. Each participating real estate office receives information about criminal activity in the area through a special email system. Participants attend weekly meetings and learn the specifics about what they should be on the lookout for.

Bath, Maine: The Community–Police Partnership program of the Bath Police Department consists of active volunteers who help identify community problems, exchange information, and coordinate interaction between the public and the police to make the city a safer place to live. Volunteers also participate in the Juvenile Resolution Team, which works with first-time, nonfelony, juvenile offenders. This program avoids the court process and brings the offenders and their families together with

the victims to restore justice to the victims and to prevent re-offending.

Triana, Alabama: The Boys & Girls Club of Triana is the only source of recreation for about 25 youth ranging in age from six to 18. Triana is a rural community with approximately 1,000 residents, most of whom live on fixed or low incomes. Triana suffers from significant crime. The Boys & Girls Club formed its own crime prevention club to help address the issue of crime. The youth worked for months to bring a community crime prevention program to town. They hosted an event where citizens could hear about the city's new anonymous tip line direct to the police department, new crime prevention signs placed throughout the city, and direct-line police radios for use by citizens. Many of these crime prevention resources were proposed by the club youth who also took classes in crime prevention given by the Madison County Sheriff's Office and the Triana police chief.

Washington, D.C.: In the Washington metropolitan area, Metro Citizen Corps—in conjunction with the Metro Transit Police—provides Community Emergency Response Team members from Virginia, Maryland, and the District with a training program that teaches them how to react to emergencies; the program covers subjects ranging from rail safety and evacuation routes to identification of criminal and terrorist activity.

## Crime Prevention is Cost-Effective

In a recent article in Police Chief magazine, NCPC President and CEO Al Lenhardt pointed to numerous examples of the cost effectiveness of crime prevention—and the need for continuous crime prevention measures to benefit society, keep cities and neighborhoods safe, and free up resources for other activities.

For example, Lenhardt wrote, early childhood education was important from a crime prevention perspective. With a 10 percent increase in the availability of high-quality early childhood education, he wrote, "every dollar invested [would] save \$7 that would otherwise need to be spent on future juvenile and adult criminal justice costs."

Citing a study published by California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, Lenhardt went on to provide an even more dramatic example of the importance of ongoing crime prevention—and its cost-effectiveness.

The study, the California Drug and Alcohol Treatment Assessment, analyzed the results of treatment for 150,000 drug addicts. Treatment, Lenhardt wrote, "reduced illegal drug use by 40 percent, lowered drug-related illnesses as evidenced by a one-third drop in hospitalization rates, and reduced overall criminal activity by two-thirds. The study concluded that the greater the time spent in a treatment program, the greater the reduction in individual criminal activity."

No one disputes the premise that crime prevention must be ongoing. The mission of the National Crime Prevention Council, which is headquartered in Washington, is "to be the nation's leader in helping people keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe from crime."

## How To Get A Free Security Assessment For Your School

ADT Security Services' systems protect tens of thousands of schools in the U.S. every day. Did you know that ADT makes available to school officials the company's expert representatives who can complete an assessment of security needs at no cost to the school district? ADT can help your school system improve safety of students, faculty, and staff; increase public confidence; deter vandalism and graffiti; and even reduce spending on responses to security incidents. To learn more about how ADT could help enhance the security of the educational environment at a school in your community, visit www.adt.com/education or call 800-ADT-ASAP.

### Take A Stand Against Crime

Join a Neighborhood Watch



#### A Neighborhood Watch Primer

Neighborhood Watch, Block Watch, Town Watch, Building Watch, Crime Watch—whatever the name, it's one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear. Neighborhood Watch fights the isolation that crime both creates

and feeds upon. It forges bonds among area residents, helps reduce burglaries and robberies, and improves relations between police and the communities they serve.

#### Why Neighborhood Watch?

- It works. Throughout the country, dramatic decreases in burglary and related offenses are reported by law enforcement professionals in communities with active Watch programs.
- Today's transient society produces communities that are less personal. Many families have two working

- parents and children involved in many activities that keep them away from home. An empty house in a neighborhood where none of the neighbors know the owner is a prime target for burglary.
- Neighborhood Watch also helps build pride and serves as a springboard for efforts that address other community concerns such as recreation for youth, childcare, and affordable housing.

#### How does a Neighborhood Watch start?

A motivated individual, a few concerned residents, a community organization, or a law enforcement agency can spearhead the efforts to establish a Watch. Together they can

- Organize a small planning committee of neighbors to discuss needs, the level of interest, and possible community problems
- Contact the local police or sheriff's department, or local crime prevention organization, for help in training members in home security and reporting skills and for information on local crime patterns
- Hold an initial meeting to gauge neighbors' interest; establish the purpose of the program; and begin to identify issues that need to be addressed
- Select a coordinator
- Ask for block captain volunteers who are responsible for relaying information to members

see TAKE A STAND, page 4 ω

#### TAKE A STAND

- Recruit members, keeping up-to-date information on new residents and making special efforts to involve the elderly, working parents, and young people
- Work with local government or law enforcement to put up Neighborhood Watch signs, usually after at least 50 percent of all households are enrolled.

#### Who can be involved?

• Any community resident can join—young and old, single and married, renter and homeowner. Even the busiest of people can belong to a Neighborhood Watch—they too can keep an eye out for neighbors as they come and go.

#### I live in an apartment building. Can I start a Neighborhood Watch?

• Yes, Watch Groups can be formed around any geographical unit: a block, apartment building, townhouse complex, park, business area, public housing complex, office building, or marina.

#### What does a Neighborhood Watch do?

- A Neighborhood Watch is neighbors helping neighbors. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and helping neighbors.
- Members meet their neighbors, learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report activity that raises their suspicions to the police or sheriff's office.

#### What are the major components of a Watch program?

- Community meetings. These should be set up on a regular basis such as a bi-monthly, monthly, or six
- Citizens' or community patrol. A citizens' patrol is made up of volunteers who walk or drive through the community and alert police to crime and questionable activities. Not all neighborhood watches need a citizens' patrol.
- Communications. These can be as simple as a weekly flier posted on community announcement boards to a monthly newsletter that updates neighbors on the progress of the program to a neighborhood electronic

bulletin board.

- Special events. These are crucial to keep the program going and growing. Host talks or seminars that focus on current issues such as hate or bias-motivated violence, crime in schools, teenage alcohol and other drug abuse, or domestic violence. Adopt a park or school playground and paint over graffiti. Sponsor a block party, holiday dinner, or volleyball or softball game that will provide neighbors a chance to get to know each other.
- Other aspects of community safety. For instance, start a block parent program to help children in emergency situations.

#### What are my responsibilities as a Watch Member?

- Know your neighbors and watch out for each other.
- Report suspicious activities and crimes to the police or sheriff's department.
- Learn how you can make yourself and your community

#### What kind of activities should I be on the lookout for as a Watch Member?

- Someone screaming or shouting for help.
- Someone looking in windows of houses and parked
- Property being taken out of houses where no one is at home or from closed businesses.
- Cars, vans, or trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination or without lights.
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle.
- A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child.
- Report these incidents to the police or sheriff's department. Talk about concerns and problems with your

#### How should I report these incidents?

- Call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number.
- Give your name and address.
- Explain what happened.
- Briefly describe the suspect: sex and race, age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, distinctive characteristics such as a beard, mustache, scars, or accent.
- Describe the vehicle if one was involved: color, make, model, year, license plate, and special features such as

## **Burglary Prevention — Facts** and Strategies

Making your home safer from crime doesn't always mean having to install expensive alarms - effective home security starts with properly locked doors and windows, and visible, well-lighted entryways.

#### Did You Know?

- About six out of every ten completed burglaries take place through unlocked doors or windows.
- Burglaries have steadily declined in the United States - from 100 burglaries per thousand households in 1973 to fewer than 30 per household in 2003. This downward trend has continued for almost 30 years.
- Renters are far more likely than owners to be burglary victims. At a rate 85 percent higher than home-owning
- One of the most important steps you can take to prevent burglary is to put sturdy locks on sturdy doors and windows and use them.

• Another important step is to get to know your neighbors. Join or organize a Neighborhood Watch. More than

20 million people say they take part in Neighborhood Watch.

- Burglars focus on convenience, concealment, and camouflage.
- In a survey of 1,000 police and fire chiefs, 85 percent said security systems

decrease the likelihood a home will be burglarized. Almost 90 percent felt security systems increased their chances of apprehending burglars, and 85 percent said they encourage the installation of electronic security systems in residences and business in their communities.

### Home Alone - Pop Quiz

Being at home without your parents may sound like a great idea but do you know how to stay safe when your parents aren't there? The National Crime Prevention Council and ADT Security Services want you to be aware of basic rules for home safety. Test your knowledge with this pop quiz, and learn what to do when you stay home alone.

#### 1. If you are at home alone after school, should you tell anyone that you are alone?

A. Yes, but only tell your friends.

- B. No, never tell anyone that you are home alone. It is unsafe.
- C. Yes, if someone comes looking for your parents. Tell them your parents are away, so they can know when to come back.
- 2. When you come home from school, you should call your parent or a designated neighbor immediately to let them know you are there.

A. TRUE

3. It is important for your parents to teach you how to properly use the door and window locks as well as the alarm system.

B. FALSE

- 4. In case of an emergency, which of the following is important information to know about your home?
- A. Directions to your house
- B. Which trusted neighbor has a spare key?
- C. Your address and phone number

#### 5. If you arrive home from school alone to find the front door open you should:

- A. Go inside as usual and close the door.
- B. Go inside and call your parents.
- C. Go to a neighbor's house and call 911.

#### 6. If you see someone lurking around outside of your home, who should you tell?

A. Police

B. A parent

C. Another trusted adult

D. All of the above

#### 7. In case you forget your key, you should always leave a door or window unlocked so you can get in.

B. FALSE A. TRUE

#### 8. What is the best way to handle telephone calls when your parent(s) is/are not home?

- A. Don't answer. Let the answering machine/voicemail pick up the
- B. Tell the caller your parent is busy, and take a message.

#### 9. It is safe to accept rides from adults, even if he/she is a stranger?

B. FALSE

10. Which of these is a proper reason to call 911? A. To complain about a noisy neighbor.

- B. To report a lost or found animal.
- C. To report that power or another utility is off at your home.
- D. To report a situation that threatens human life or property and requires immediate assistance from police, fire, and/or emergency

Answers: 1. B: 2. A: 3. A: 4. D: 5. C: 6. D: 7. B: 8. D: 9. B: 10. D

#### Strategies

- Walk out of your home. Now pretend you've locked yourself out and there's no spare key. How would you get in? If you can find ways, so can a burglar.
- Keep trees trimmed away from the home and keep shrubbery trimmed so that burglars can't hide in it.
- Illuminate or eliminate places an intruder might hide - the spaces between trees or shrubbery, stairwells, alleys, hallways, and entryways.
- Make sure all outside entrances front, back, side, basement – have good lighting and locks so burglars can't easily hide and try to break it.

## Identity Theft on the Rise

According to the latest statistics, 3.6 million households are victimized by identity theft and fifty three percent of identity theft victims reported their identities stolen by someone they knew.

Identity theft is when a perpetrator assumes someone's identity for personal or financial gain, like stealing a credit card to make financial transactions in the victim's name. It is one of the fastest-growing crimes in America.

Follow these tips to help ensure that you don't become a victim.

#### **Mail Matters**

- Don't put outgoing mail, especially bill payments, in personal curbside mailboxes. Use United States Postal Service mailboxes instead, or, better yet, drop off your mail inside a post office.
- Use a locked mailbox with a slot at home, if at all pos-
- Don't put outgoing mail in an unguarded "out box" at work.
- Don't write your account number on the outside of envelopes containing bill payments.
- When you're out of town, have the post office hold your mail for you or have someone you trust pick it up every day.

#### **E-Commerce**

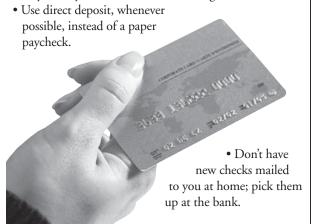
- Pay your bills online using a secure site if that service is
- Don't give out your credit card number on the Internet unless it is encrypted on a secure site.

#### **Personal Finance**

- Examine your credit reports from the major national credit reporting firms at least once a year to make sure no one has established credit in your name or is ruining your credit after stealing your identity. The recently enacted Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act requires that each of the three major credit reporting agencies provide consumers with a free credit report once a year.
- Shred all financial statements, billing statements, and "preapproved" credit card offers and the like before throwing them in the trash. Cross-cut shredding is best. No shredder? Use scissors to cut documents.
- Cancel all credit cards that you have not used in the last six months. Open credit is a prime target if an identity thief spies it in your credit report.

#### **Banking**

- Examine all of your bank and credit card statements each month for mistakes or unfamiliar charges that might be the sign of an identity thief at work.
- Make sure you know when your bills and bank statements normally arrive. If one is late, call to find out why. It may have fallen into the wrong hands.



#### **Strictly Confidential**

- Commit all passwords to memory. Never write them down or carry them with you.
- Even in your home lock up your financial or personal information.
- Give out your Social Security number only when absolutely necessary. Treat it as confidential information.
- Destroy the hard drive of your computer if you are selling it, giving it to charity, or otherwise disposing of it. Don't just erase the hard drive; physically remove it.
- Keep your personal information confidential and learn as much as you can about the various kinds of scams being perpetrated to steal your identity. The newspapers are full of tips.
- Burglar-proof your home, then burglar-proof what's inside your home, especially your financial records and important documents (put them inside a locked filing cabinet or safe).

#### **PREVENTION**

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- Lock all windows, garage doors, shed doors, and gates after every use.
- Keep spare keys with a trusted neighbor or nearby shopkeeper, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox.
- Avoid confrontations with burglars.
- Set timers on lights when you're away from home or your business is closed so it appears to be occupied.
- If you're going on vacation, stop mail and newspaper deliveries or have a trusted neighbor pick them up daily.
- Never leave a message on your answering machine that indicates you may be away from home. Rather than saying "I'm not at home right now," say "I'm not available right now."
- Work with neighbors and local government to organize community clean-ups. The cleaner your neighborhood, the less attractive it is to crime.

### No Time To Waste:

#### Tips for Avoiding False Alarms and Frivolous Calls

IT'S AN EPIDEMIC—false alarms, frivolous 9-1-1 calls, and pranks such as phony bomb threats are overwhelming the emergency response system nationwide. These incidents are more than an inconvenience. They waste the time and energy of law enforcement and other emergency personnel who may be needed to respond to real life-or-death emergencies. Every year, police and fire departments waste a significant amount of time and money responding to nuisance complaints and false alarms.

#### **Preventing False Alarms**

Anti-theft alarms were designed to protect lives and property. When properly installed, used, and maintained, alarms can bring a sense of security and peace of mind. When misused, they are a liability. False alarms are usually accidental, most often caused by user error (using incorrect keypad codes, failing to train users, failing to secure doors and windows), poor installation, and faulty equipment. There are many steps alarm owners can take to prevent false alarms.

#### Home or Business Alarms

- Lock doors and windows properly.
- Properly train all users (e.g., babysitters, children, relatives, visitors, etc.).
- Know what to do if you accidentally set off the
- Write down the procedures for activating and deactivating the system, and make them available near the control panel.
- Place the alarm monitoring center's phone number near the phone or control panel.
- Do not leave codes or passwords with instructions or in unsecured places.
- Make sure your emergency contact names and phone numbers are updated with the alarm-moni-
- If you have a local alarm (those without monitoring companies), post emergency contact phone numbers near the front door of the premise.
- Before activating an alarm system, securely close and lock all windows and doors, and make sure pets, fans, plants, and balloons are away from motion sensors.

• Service and maintain the system (including batteries) properly.

#### **Vehicle Alarms**

- Lock doors, take keys, remove or hide valuables.
- Use an anti-ignition device or other engine-disabling
- Use secured parking.
- Use a steering-wheel lock.
- Set the sensitivity to a level where only an actual break-in will be detected. Loud or large trucks, buses, trains, or other vibrating noise should not set off your
- Adjust the amount of time the siren or horn sounds to the minimum. One or two minutes is more than
- Employ an alarm system with a pager that notifies you if your alarm has been activated.
- Place an emergency number or pager number on the vehicle window. This will assist neighbors or the police in locating you if your system is repeatedly having false alarms or in the event of an actual crime.

#### Using the 9-1-1 System

Ever since Congress passed legislation in 1968 making 9-1-1 a standard emergency number nationwide, countless lives have been saved due to faster response by police, fire, and medical personnel in emergency situations. Approximately 200 millions calls are made to 9-1-1 in the United States each year, with about one-third made from

When you dial 9-1-1 from a landline, your call goes to the nearest 9-1-1 center where the call taker receives your information and dispatches emergency help. New technology allows many call takers to see your phone number and address on a computer display. When you call 9-1-1 from a wireless phone, your call may not be routed to the nearest 9-1-1 center, and the call taker may not receive your callback phone number or your location. It is important to clearly state your telephone number and location whenever you call 9-1-1.

see NO TIME, page 6

## A Safety Checklist For Apartments

#### **Check Out Your Apartment**

Does your-

- Entry door have a deadbolt lock and peephole?
- Sliding glass door have a wooden rod in the track so it can't be opened and pins in the overhead frame so it can't be lifted out?
- Landlord or building manager tightly control all keys?

For extra security, leave a radio playing or a light on while you are gone. Always tell neighbors and the building manager when you leave for a business trip or vacation.

#### **Check Out Your Building**

- Is there some kind of control over who enters and leaves the building?
- Are walkways, entrances, parking areas, elevators, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms and storage areas well-lighted, 24 hours a day?
- Are mailboxes in a well-traveled, well-lighted area and do they have good locks?

• Are things well-maintained, are burnt out lights fixed properly, shrubs trimmed, trash and snow removed?

#### **Check Out the Neighbors**

- Get to know your neighbors. Join or organize an Apartment Watch group so neighbors can look out for and help each other.
- If you live in a large building or complex, think about a tenant patrol that watches for crime around the building, provides escort services for the elderly and handicapped and monitors comings and goings in the lobby.
- Work with landlords to sponsor social events for tenants, a Sunday breakfast, a picnic, a Halloween party.
- Look beyond problems to root causes-does your building need a better playground, a social evening for teens, a tenant association, new landscaping, a basketball hoop? Work with the landlord for changes that make everyone proud of where they live.

## Assessing School Safety and Security

Now, more than ever, assuring school safety and security can be a challenge. Therefore, it's important to conduct a survey of the school environment to see where improvements can be made. The instructions that follow, taken from the National Crime Prevention Council publication School Safety and Security Toolkit: A Guide for Parents, Schools, and Communities, is designed to be used to make an initial scan of the school. It can also be used as a follow-up to a professional safety assessment by a trained law enforcement specialist or school security specialist.

#### Who Can Perform the Assessment?

The assessment should be designed for parents, school staff, older high school students, and school safety and law enforcement personnel who have not had specialized training in such work. It may be helpful to work in teams; two or three sets of eyes are more likely to notice problems that need attention. Have one person complete an assessment checklist, while others jot down specific situation notes.

#### How To Perform an Assessment

Full-blown school safety and security assessments—which every school should, ideally, conduct at least once every three



years—require an experienced professional who can look at the school objectively and in the context of similar schools in other settings. In the interim, you can do a lot with a less formal assessment. The process will increase your knowledge of the building and the way the school is operated.

- 1. Collect information on an assessment form. If the school has had a safety assessment before, what were the results? What do the student, teacher/staff, and parent surveys tell you about places and times people feel unsafe? What do school records (indicator data) reveal about when and where there have been problems? What do neighborhood crime data show about incidents involving students?
- 2. Make a checklist of issues based on these data. Make sure there is space on the checklist to note whether specific problems have been fixed, partially fixed, or not fixed, as well as follow-up required and who will do it. Use the assessment form so that the person recording that information can quickly note where and when problems are spotted during the assessment. If possible, invite a local law enforcement officer (the school resource officer or an officer familiar with your neighborhood) to go with you on the assessment. The officer may not be trained in school safety assessments, but he or she will most likely have had crime prevention training.
- 3. Get a map or a set of maps of the school, one for each level or floor of the building. Make sure that one of the maps includes all the outside areas, well marked.
- 4. Recognize that this work will take some time. You may wish to schedule it over two days if your school is big.
- 5. Invite some students to join you; students who are interested in law enforcement or building trades careers, for example, would learn from the experience.

  The publication cited above, School Safety and Security Toolkit: A Guide for Parents, Schools, and Communities, contains a sample school assessment survey.

  To order a copy of the publication, contact the NCPC Fulfillment Center at 800-627-2911.



#### NO TIME

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Non-emergency, frivolous, and prank calls to 9-1-1 are reaching a dangerous level. Dispatchers responding to these calls are forced to place 9-1-1 callers with real emergencies on hold. When seconds count, this delay can mean someone with a real emergency may not be able to get help in time.

#### When To Call 9-1-1

- You need to report a situation that threatens human life or property and requires immediate dispatch of police, fire, or emergency medical services, such as a crime in progress, a serious crime that has just occurred, a fire, a serious illness, or an injury.
- You aren't sure whether the situation is an emergency but want the 9-1-1 call taker to determine the type of response your situation requires.

#### How To Make a 9-1-1 Call

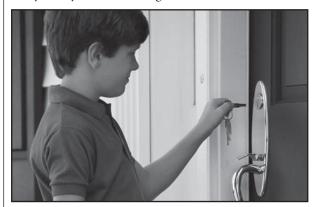
- Dial 911 from any kind of phone, including pushbutton, rotary, wireless, cordless, or pay phone. Do not program 9-1-1 into your speed dial.
- When the call taker answers, remain calm and speak clearly
- Describe your emergency, and state your phone number and the address where you need help.
- Answer the call taker's questions, and listen to all instructions.
- Do not hang up until the call taker tells you to unless it is not safe for you to stay on the telephone. If you call 9-1-1 by mistake, tell the call taker what happened.
- Remember: 9-1-1 calls are recorded and traceable. In most places, it's against the law to deliberately make false 9-1-1 calls.

#### Do Not Call 9-1-1

- To get information on local services
- To find out about threatening weather or to get a weather report
- To ask for directions or travel information
- To complain about a noisy neighbor
- To report that your power or other utility is off
- To learn how to pay your parking ticket
- To report a lost or found animal
- To discuss any nonemergency situation

## **Home Security Checklist**

Use this as a guide as you check your home for safety measures. No's you've circled are areas where you can take action to improve your home's security. These are just some of the steps you can take to decrease the likelihood that you or your home is targeted.



#### **Exterior Doors**

- All doors are locked at night and every time we leave the house, even if it's just for a few minutes. **YES/NO**
- Doors are solid hardwood or metal clad. YES/NO
- Doors feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use. YES/NO
- If there are glass panels in or near our doors, they are reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered. YES/NO
- All entryways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door. YES/NO
- Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox. YES/NO

#### Garage and Sliding Door Security

- The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a quality keyed door lock and deadbolt. **YES/NO**
- The overhead garage door has a lock, which is used, so that we do not rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide security. YES/NO
- The sliding glass door has strong, working key locks. **YES/NO**
- A dowel or a pin to secure a glass door has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lofted off the track. YES/NO
- The sliding glass door is locked every night and each time we leave the house. YES/NO

#### **Protecting Windows**

- Every window in the house has a working key lock or is securely pinned. **YES/NO**
- Windows are always locked, even when they are opened a few inches for ventilation. YES/NO

#### **Outdoor Security**

- Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide. **YES/NO**
- There are no dark areas around our house, garage or yard at night that would hide prowlers. **YES/NO**
- Every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate visitors. **YES/NO**
- Floodlights are used appropriately to ensure effective illumination. **YES/NO**
- Outdoor lights are on in the evening, whether someone is at home or not or a photocell or motion-sensitive lighting system has been installed. YES/NO

 Our house number is clearly displayed so police and other emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.
 YES/NO

#### Security When Away From Home

- At least two light timers have been set to turn the lights on and off in a logical sequence, when we are away from home for an extended period of time.
   YES/NO
- The motion detector or other alarm system (if we have one) has been activated when we leave home.
   YES/NO
- Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped or arrangements for a neighbor/friend to pick them up have been made when we go away from home for a period of time. YES/NO
- A neighbor has been asked to tend the yard and watch our home when we are away. YES/NO

#### Outdoor Valuable and Personal Property

- Gate latches, garage doors and shed doors are all locked with high-security, laminated padlocks.
   YES/NO
- Gate latches, garage doors and shed doors are locked after every use. YES/NO
- Grills, lawn mowers and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed, or if left out in the open, are hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point. YES/NO



- Every bicycle is secured with a U-bar lock or quality padlock and chain. YES/NO
- Bikes are always locked, even if we leave them for just a minute. **YES/NO**
- Firearms are stored unloaded and locked in storage boxes and secured with trigger guard locks. YES/NO
- Valuable items, such as televisions, stereos and computers have been inscribed with an identifying number approved by local police. YES/NO
- Our home inventory is up-to-date and includes pictures. A complete copy is kept somewhere out of the house. YES/NO

## Home Security Activity

Students, here's an opportunity to check your home safety and security knowledge. You can also challenge your family, friends, and classmates to see who is the most knowledgeable. Use the information provided in this supplement or visit www.ncpc.org to get ideas.

Exercise: Think of all the actions you can take to help improve safety measures around your home. Submit your answers on www.ncpc.org/homesafety and you could be one of ten winners who will receive a free McGruff bobblehead from the National Crime Prevention Council.

The website will not accept entries after October 31, 2006. The first ten entrants will receive their prize in the mail a few short weeks later.

## Join the McGruff Network

Do you teach people about personal safety or crime prevention? Do you use McGruff and related materials in your work, or would you like to? Then join the McGruff Network! McGruff Network members receive the following benefits:

- Monthly e-newsletter with the latest crime prevention news and resources from the National Crime Prevention Council and others in the field.
- Discounts on select McGruff products and NCPC
  materials
- Alerts to training opportunities across the country and online
- Images of McGruff that can be used in promotional materials for relevant crime prevention events and programs.
- Opportunities to share your community or program successes and concerns with other crime prevention practitioners and to learn from colleagues' experiences.

The McGruff Network brings together law enforcement officers and others working in crime prevention to make it

easier for them to do their jobs, collaborate with others in the field, and get the word out about crime prevention. You can learn more about the McGruff Network at http://www.ncpc.org/law/about.php or by emailing mcgruff@ncpc.org.

To join, fill out the online form at http://www.ncpc.org/law/application\_form.php or email your full contact information to mcgruff@ncpc.org. It's free!

## How To Get A Free Security Assessment For Your Home

ADT Security Services helps protect nearly six million homes and businesses in North America every day. Did you know that ADT provides homeowners a free assessment to help them evaluate their security needs? To discover more about home security systems through an online demonstration, get safety tips, sign up for a free electronic newsletter about home security, and learn about money-saving offers, visit www.adt.com/resi/learn\_about\_security/ or call 866-SHOP-ADT.

### Stay Safe When You're Online





- ✓ Never meet anyone face-to-face that you met online.
- ☑ Talk to a trusted adult if you see anything that makes you uncomfortable.





**National Crime Prevention Council** 

McGruff.org

## TRIVIA: Fun Facts about McGruff the Crime Dog

1. McGruff the Crime Dog was named on July 1st, 1980 after a New Orleans Police Officer wins the naming-contest. Was the runner-up name "Shurlocked Homes"?

#### TRUE

#### FAI SE

2. Ninety-three percent of children recognize "McGruff helps me to be safer."

#### **TRUE**

#### **FALSE**

3. In 1983 McGruff's nephew, Scruff, was introduced to help teach younger children important safety steps.

#### TRUE

#### FALSE

4. McGruff has a classy Corvette, a monster truck, and a wiener wagon.

#### TRUE

#### **FALSE**

5. McGruff only talks to children about things like how to be safe at home and school.

#### TRUE

#### FALSE

6. McGruff helps fight crime for the National Crime Prevention Council.

#### TRUE

FALSE

7. There are only 100 active McGruffs (number of costumes in use).

#### TRUE

#### FALSE

8. McGruff has walked alongside the New York City Police Department contingent in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

#### TRUE

#### FAISE

9. McGruff has his own baseball cards, starring famous baseball players Derek Jeter, Nomar Garciaparra, Sammy Sosa, and Albert Pujols.

#### TRUE

FALSE

10. McGruff's first PSA aired in 1980.

#### TRUE

#### FALSE

11. Commemorative McGruff Stamps were introduced by the U.S. Postal Service in 2004.

#### TRUE

#### FALSE

12. McGruff appeared on a special episode of ABC's 1980s "Webster" TV series, to talk to Webster and classmates about fighting.

#### TRUE

#### FALSE

13. Don Graf y su sobrino Escraf (McGruff and Scruff) have been used in Chile, Panama, and the Dominican Republic and other Latin American countries since 1997.

#### TRUE

#### FALSE

14. The military widely uses McGruff in its crime prevention efforts but only a few bases have a McGruff costume and supporting material.

#### TRUE FALSE

15. McGruff is a "ham," so he loves doing public service announcements for television and radio or posing for print or billboard advertising.

#### RUE FALSE

16. All of McGruff's helpful information, and even fun prevention games, can be accessed through www.mcgruff.org, an exciting, interactive site for children aged 12 and under. Teens and adults may access www.ncpc.org to access prevention tips for teens.

#### TRUE

FALSE

ANSWERS, page 9

#### **How To Get McGruff To Come to Your Event**

There is no better way to draw attention to your crime prevention event than by having McGruff present to greet visitors and hand out crime prevention materials.

McGruff is a national crime prevention figure, well-known by all ages. He is also a local ally and spokesdog, reaching many people through personal appearances, printed materials, and localized broadcast messages, It is this national and local partnership that has made McGruff so successful in communicating to all kinds of people how to protect themselves, their families, and their neighborhoods against crime.

McGruff can only be played by law enforcement officers. Many law enforcement organizations around the country have purchased the costume for outreach programs.

#### To have McGruff appear at your event:

- Call the crime prevention or community relations officer at your local law enforcement agency. Ask if that agency has the McGruff costume or knows of another nearby agency that does.
- Explain your event's purpose with as many details as possible, including the date, time, and location. It's always helpful to meet with the officer in person and provide a fact sheet on the event.
- If a costume is available locally, give plenty of advance notice when making your request. McGruff is in great demand, and his appearances must fit into staff schedules.
- If you can't find a costume locally, contact Robotronics or NCPC. Provide the zip code
  of your event's location, and either one will identify the nearest law enforcement agency
  with the costume. Costumes must always be headquartered at a law enforcement
  agency.
- If a McGruff costume isn't available in your community, consider asking local businesses to buy one and donate it to the law enforcement agency.

#### The following licensed costume styles are available:

- The basic McGruff costume features good visibility and ventilation through a newly designed McGruff "head," a special cool-vest, and comfortable pants with adjustable hems. The Scruff costume is also available and is air-cooled. Both the McGruff and Scruff costumes are produced by Robotronics.
- The animated McGruff costume features advanced computer technology that makes McGruff come to life. His eyes blink and his mouth moves when he talks. Produced by Robotronics.

## Available at www.ncpc.org, "All About McGruff":

#### Using McGruff Tools To Prevent Crime In Our Communities

This toolkit for law enforcement officers, educators, Neighborhood Watch captains, and others who work to prevent crime in their communities contains information on launching a crime prevention effort, event planning, obtaining a McGruff costume, publications, raising funds, licensed products, and more.

## 40 Tips on Playing McGruff the Crime Dog and Scruff

This booklet for law enforcement personnel who portray McGruff and Scruff offers hints on bringing the characters to life, wearing the costume, and more.

#### Costumes are available from

Robotronics, Inc. 1610 West 1600 South Springville, UT 84663 800-762-6876

Fax: 801-489-8241 pschwen@robotronics.com www.robotronics.com

## Kids visit www.McGruff.org

The website offers games, stories, and advice from McGruff for children on topics such as bullying, strangers, and Internet Safety. Children can watch a webisode, navigate a maze, and read a comic book, all while learning safety tips.

Recently McGruff.org won a National Webby Award Honor! Hailed as the "Oscars of the Internet" by the New York Times, Webby Awards are the leading international awards honoring excellence in web design, creativity, usability, and functionality.

While visiting McGruff.org be sure to download one of the free wallpaper designs for your computer. You can find the designs at:

www.mcgruff.org|StarringMcGruff|wallpaper.htm

### McGruff's Favorite Five Songs

Atomic Dog (George Clinton)

Cals vs. Dogs (Matthew Sweet)

Walking the Dog (Rufus Thomas)

Who Let the Dogs Out (Baha Men)

### TRIVIA ANSWERS

- 1. True
- **2.** True
- 3. False, Scruff was introduced in 1993
- **4.** True, But most of all, he likes to ride in patrol cars assisting law enforcement
- **5.** False, McGruff also talks to adults and teens about issues like Identity Theft and personal safety
- **6.** False, McGruff helps all American's prevent crime. He works for everyone.
- 7. False, There are actually 4,000 active McGruffs
- **8.** True
- 9. True
- 10. True, Check out his latest PSAs on www.ncpc.org
- 11. False, 1984
- **12.** False, McGruff gave advice on coping with bullies, and preventing vandalism and theft
- **13.** True
- **14.** False, Almost every post or base has a McGruff costume and supporting material
- 15. True
- 16. True, McGruff is so popular, he has two websites

## Streetwise: The Way To Be

#### How Streetwise Are You?

Do you:

- Stuff your backpack or purse with cash, keys, pager, cell phones, credit cards, checkbooks—and then leave it wide open at school or work, near your desk, or on the floor?
- Pay attention to your surroundings or do you think about school or your friends when walking, driving, or riding the subway or bus?
- Think it's a waste of time to use your locker for valuables or to lock your car when you'll be back in a few minutes?
- Walk or jog by yourself early in the morning or late at night when the streets are quiet and deserted?

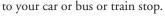
If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you need to change a few habits. Even if you answered "no" and made a perfect score, read on. Spend a few minutes now to prevent trouble later.

#### Keeping Street Sense in Mind

- Stay alert and tuned into your surroundings wherever you are—at school or the mall, on the street, waiting for a bus or subway, or driving.
- Send the message that you're calm, confident, and know where you're going.
- Don't accept rides or gifts from someone you don't know well and trust— that includes people you've met on the Internet.
- Trust your instincts. If something or some- one makes you uneasy, avoid the person or situation and leave as soon as possible.
- Know the neighborhoods where you live, go to school, and work. Keep in mind locations of fire and police stations and public telephones. Remember which stores and restaurants stay open late.

#### Strolling—Day and Night

- Try to walk places with your friends rather than alone.
- Stick to well-lighted, well-traveled streets. Avoid shortcuts through wooded areas, parking lots, or alleys.
- Take the safest route to and from schools, stores, or your friends' houses. Know where to go for help if you need it.
- Don't display your cash or any other inviting targets like pagers, cell phones, hand-held electronic games, or expensive jewelry and clothing.
- Carry your backpack or purse close to your body and keep it closed. Just carrying a wallet? Put it inside your coat or front pants pocket, not in your back pocket or in your backpack.
- Have your car or house key in your hand before you reach the door.
- If you think someone is following you, switch directions or cross the street. If they're still there, move quickly toward an open store or restaurant or a lighted house. Don't be afraid to yell for help.
- Have to work late? Make sure there are others in the building and that someone—a supervisor or security guard— will wait with you for your ride or walk you



• Be alert in the neighborhood. Call police or tell an adult about anything you see that seems suspicious.

#### Cruising

- Keep your car in good running condition. Make sure there's enough gas to get where you're going and back.
- Turn the ignition off and take your car keys with you, even if you just have to run inside for one minute.
- Roll up the windows and lock car doors, even if you're coming right back. Check inside and out before getting in.
- Avoid parking in isolated areas. If you are uncomfortable, ask a security guard or store staff to watch you or escort you to your car.
- Drive to the nearest gas station, open business, or other well-lighted, crowded area to get help if you think you are being followed. Don't head home.
- Use your cellular phone, if you have one, to call the police if you are being followed or you've seen an accident. Otherwise, stay off your cellular phone while you are driving.
- Don't pick up hitchhikers. Don't hitchhike.

#### Taking Buses and Subways

- Use well-lighted, busy stops. If you must get off at a little-used stop, try to arrange for a friend or an adult to meet you.
- Stay alert! Don't doze or daydream.
- Say, "leave me alone" loudly if someone hassles you. Don't be embarrassed.
- Watch who gets off your stop with you. If you feel uneasy, walk directly to a place where there are other people.

#### If Someone Tries To Rob You

- Give up your property—don't give up your life.
- Report the crime to the police. Try to describe the attacker accurately. Your actions can help prevent others from becoming victims.

Teens are the age group most vulnerable to crime. But putting into practice some basic crime prevention tips can help you and your friends avoid becoming the victims of crime.

## What Is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)?

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is defined as the proper design and effective use of the built environment in order to lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in the quality of life. CPTED focuses on how the physical environment can be designed or modified to make people feel safer and crime less likely to occur. Certain physical conditions provide opportunities for criminals and make crimes easier to commit. Using CPTED strategies to make changes to our environment can prevent crime and reduce fear.

Everywhere we go, our sense of safety in an area is influenced by the area's physical appearance and design. Imagine a clean park with neatly mowed grass and new picnic tables on a sunny day. Now imagine a park that's overgrown with weeds and has rusted, broken play equipment covered with graffiti. Which park feels safer? The first park sends a message that people take care of it (by keeping it clean and mowing the grass). The tables entice neighbors to have picnics (a positive activity) in the park. By contrast, the second park appears neglected. The broken swing set can't be used, the rusted equipment suggests that people don't care about the children who might play there, and the graffiti indicates that vandals have been in the area.

Three factors must be available to a criminal before a crime can occur: the desire to commit the crime, the ability to do it, and the opportunity. Take away one, and the other two are useless. By using the strategies of CPTED, we can design the environment to reduce the opportunity for criminal acts to occur. This includes modifying both manmade features—traffic flow and signage—and natural features—bushes, grass, flowers. CPTED provides strategies for designing and improving the physical environment so that an area creates a sense of safety, encourages people to enjoy positive activities there, and discourages potential criminals from committing dangerous activities or crimes.

The four key principles of CPTED are as follows:

Natural access control (coming and going)—How people get into and out of an area: Every building, street, business, and home should provide people who visit with natural clues about where they are and where they are not allowed to go. A crime cannot occur if a criminal is prevented from entering the target building, neighborhood, or home. Natural access control strategies use barriers such as entrances, exits, fencing, and landscaping to prevent people from entering private or dangerous areas. This is done to make potential criminals feel that it would be very risky to commit a crime in that place. Natural access control is also about helping people find their way around so they don't feel lost and uncomfortable. For example, signs directing visitors to the main office of a building can make them feel welcomed, informed, and confident.

Natural surveillance (keeping watch)—How people watch over an area: If an area is in full view of those who use it—passersby, employees, students, neigh-

see Environmental Design, page 11

### Crime Prevention Through **Environmental Design Activity** CPTED is a way of preventing crime by designing or changing the physical environment in certain ways. The idea is that the way a location is designed and maintained can make crime more or less likely to happen. The four key principles of CPTED are listed below: Natural Access Control (Coming and Going) How people get into and out of an area: What are some ways to make sure people who don't belong in an area can't get into that area? 1. Locking doors after hours \_\_\_\_\_ Natural Surveillance (Keeping Watch) How people watch over an area: What are some ways to make places easier to see? 1. Keeping windows clean \_\_\_\_ Territoriality and Maintenance (Showing We Care) How people show that they own or care for an area: What are some ways to show ownership? 1. Displaying the name of the area by the front entrance Activity Support (Having Fun) How people participate in positive activities in an area: What are some ways to encourage safe 1. Installing playground equipment \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have more ideas? Write them below.

### Involving Youth in Violence Prevention

The price for not involving teens in crime and violence prevention is too high.

The risk of being a victim of violence has increased 17 percent for youth aged 12 to 17 and 24 percent for young adults aged 18 to 24 according to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice. Did you know?

- Youth are more likely to be victims of aggravated assault between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on school days and between 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. on nonschool days.
- Robberies of youth peak between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. regardless of school versus nonschool days.
- Serious violent victimization of young people peaks between 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. For adults (18 and over) the peak is 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
- The percent of youth crime victimization that takes place out-of-doors is essentially constant (and at its highest) between 3:00 and 10:00 p.m. each day.
- Juvenile offenders are more likely to commit violent crimes during afterschool hours on school days, but the peak is during the early evening on nonschool days.
- One in three teenagers reports experiencing violence in a dating relationship.
- Six out of ten young people report seeing bullying in middle and high schools at least once a day. Bullying has negative consequences for offender, victim, and bystanders.

see VIOLENCE PREVENTION, page 12

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN**

From page 10

bors—these people will naturally keep an eye on the area during their daily activities. Potential criminals will be less likely to commit a crime in a place where they feel they are being watched. Natural surveillance strategies are called "natural" because sometimes the people doing the monitoring don't even know they are providing a lookout that helps keep the area safe. These strategies involve removing hiding places, adding lighting, trimming bushes, and enticing more people to the area so that it can be easily seen and protected. Neighbors sitting on their front porches see what happens on the street. Youth playing soccer in a park notice suspicious behavior there.

Territoriality and maintenance (showing we care)—How people show that they own or care for an area: People are more likely to protect a neighborhood or territory if they feel it's their own. Conversely, people usually respect the "turf" of others if it is obvious that someone is looking out for it. Potential criminals see when a neighborhood is cared for and are discouraged from committing crimes there. Territoriality includes making clear boundaries with things like fences, art, signs, and landscaping. It is about expressing ownership of the community.

Maintaining an area reinforces territoriality because it is a constant reminder that individuals care about the area. They care enough to throw trash in trash cans, to tend bushes and shrubs, to replace broken windows or burnt-out lights. Bright and clean areas help keep crime away. Vacant lots can become miniparks or gardens. Artistic murals or just a coat of fresh paint discourages graffiti taggers. Clean, well cared for neighborhoods make everyone, including children and youth, feel proud, which in turn motivates those people to take care of and watch over the neighborhood or community.

Support Positive Activity—How people engage in positive activities in an area: Imagine an empty space in the neighborhood. How should that space be used? If it is to be a playground for children, then a jungle gym may be placed there. If it is intended to be a picnic area for families, then picnic tables and grills may be installed. Having a clear idea of how space should be used will enable planners to decide what should be put in the area, and what is put in the area will guide what neighbors do there.

With these four principles in mind, all community members can assess an area (building, school, neighborhood, home, street) and recommend changes to the environment that will improve safety.

CPTED principles are being applied in a variety of settings. Many public transport and subway systems have been designed with CPTED in mind. Schools are increasingly using CPTED to create a healthy and safe learning environment. Streets and traffic patterns are influenced by CPTED. CPTED is used to design safe parks and public spaces such as community centers, libraries, parking lots, and shopping malls. Residents who have been trained in CPTED concepts are incorporating them into the design of their homes. With this guide, you can improve the safety of your youth-serving organization and the surrounding neighborhood. And with the help of the young people you serve, a lot can be accomplished in a short amount of time!

## Get Involved in School Safety

Sad as it may be, school safety and the prevention of school violence have become contemporary concerns. As a result, students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and members of the community all have a responsibility to ensure that local schools are designed and operate with basic safety measures that ensure a secure learning environment for students and staff.

Schools should also have and enforce a policy against bullying.

ADT Security Services and the National Crime Prevention Council offer the following guidelines:

- Visitors should be required to sign in or show proper identification.
- Unmonitored doors should be locked from the outside at all times to prevent unauthorized persons or items from entering the building unnoticed.
- Students entering and exiting the school property should be monitored.
- The front office should be equipped with a panic button for emergencies, a camera with a monitor at another location, and a high-security lock on the front door that can be controlled by the receptionist.
- Access to identification badges, office keys, and codes

- should be restricted and a process for reporting missing badges and keys should be in place.
- All doors should have high security locks or electronic access control units. This applies especially to closets that hold confidential documents or hazardous materials, as well as outside and basement doors.
- Motion-sensitive or constant lights should be used
- Dark places around the building should be illuminated and shrubs should be cut back so light can penetrate
- Stairwells and out-of-the way corridors should be well
- All doors should be solid. Sheet steel should cover both sides of the back and basement doors.
- Doorframes and hinges should be strong enough so they can't be pried open.

The National Crime Prevention Council suggests that parents talk to their children's principal and work with the school's parent-teacher organization to encourage the school to implement these measures. If they remain concerned, they can team up with other parents to insist that their local school board make building security one of its top priorities.



## **Checklist for Parents:**

### Talk With Your Child About School Safety

- Listen and talk to your child regularly. Communicating with your child on a number of topics related to school, friends and his or her interests can provide valuable insight. Talk to your child about violence and how to solve problems.
- Set an example. Show your child that you can settle conflicts peacefully and nonviolently. Also, show your support for school policies and rules. If your child feels a rule is wrong, explain how the rule can increase
- **Get involved in school safety programs.** The Be Safe and Sound initiative helps parents learn what they can do to improve school safety and security. Tools such as the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) documents Caregivers' Guide to Safety and Security and School Safety and Security Toolkit: A Guide for Parents, Schools, and Communities, assists parents and community members in working with school administrators and policymakers.
- Involve teens in school safety discussions. Through programs like NCPC's Teens, Crime, and the Community—a school-based curriculum— young people learn about crime, its impact on themselves, their families, and their schools and neighborhoods, and ways to prevent crime. Teens put their knowledge to work right away by designing and carrying out their own crime prevention projects in their school or the community.

### **VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

From page 11

- Costs of crime (police response, victim service/medical care, tangible losses, quality of life losses – not including investigation, prosecution,
  - o Aggravated assault with injury \$34,300
  - o Rape/sexual assault \$122,400
  - o Robbery or attempt \$11,200 (cost if injury involved, \$26,700)

But there is good news to balance the victimization rates. Youth can and should be involved in planning and carrying out programs to prevent crime and violence in their communities. They contribute a valuable perspective on the problem as they build skills that will help them make positive contributions to their neigh-

Service projects give youth the opportunity to develop a number of skills, including the following:

- Understanding consequences—By examining a situation to identify the problem and a desired outcome, youth will gain an understanding of the factors that cause problems and the behaviors that can remedy them. This skill can help them assess the risks associated with dangerous behaviors and determine what actions will enable them to stay
- Problem solving and conflict resolution—By working with others to achieve a goal, youth learn how to make decisions together. They will learn how to lead, how to follow, and how to compro-
- Building relationships with adults—Youth who work with adults on a project are likely to develop trust in those adults. As individuals who can help solve problems, the adults will serve as positive role models. These adults can provide a caring connection to youth that will help keep youth from engaging in dangerous behaviors.
- Strengthening bonds to the community—By contributing to the community, youth will see themselves as valuable members of that community. This will make them less likely to harm or vandalize the community. Adults who observe the positive activities of the youth will be more likely to view the young people as assets rather than potential troublemakers.

Youth who participate in projects to prevent crime and violence can play many roles. They can:

- Develop awareness campaigns
- Join task forces of planning coalitions
- Volunteer in community-based prevention projects
- Mediate conflicts in schools and the community
- Perform in prevention-focused programs for younger children
- Counsel peers
- Organize neighborhood anticrime and antidrug

Training youth to advocate for prevention increases their ability to have a long-term effect on policy and programs. Many successful programs involve at-risk and other teens. Partnerships in preventing youth violence should include youth at all levels of the activity, and their roles should be considered as vital as that of

## ADT's AWARE® Program Helps Save Victims of Domestic Violence

First offered to women in 1992, the ADT-sponsored Abused Women's Active Response Emergency (AWARE) Program has been credited with saving the lives of more than 30 victims of domestic violence and improving the quality of life for thousands of others who rely on the program.

AWARE provides home security systems and emergency necklace pendants to battered or abused people in nearly 180 communities across the country. The pendant sends a silent alarm, when activated, to ADT's customer monitoring system. When the victim feels in immi-

nent danger, the button on the pendant or the emergency button on the security system is pressed. ADT operators then alert the appropriate local law enforcement agency that an AWARE call has been received. Law enforcement personnel then dispatch officers to the victim's home on a priority basis. When a person in the program no longer needs help (because they have moved away or the abuser is in prison), the pendants and security systems are given to other victims of domestic violence.

Those interested in getting help through AWARE can contact their local ADT office or adtpr@adt.com to find out if the AWARE program is offered in their community.

Victims of domestic violence should be in contact with their local domestic violence support network including law enforcement, a domestic violence shelter and their local prosecutor's office. In participating communities, those agencies will evaluate the victim for potential participation in the AWARE Program.

All participants must meet specific criteria including having filed a restraining order against the abuser and must also be in threat of imminent danger and be willing to prosecute and testify against the abuser if the use of the ADT system results in an arrest.

A victim of domestic violence can be in the program as long as help is needed, though ADT reports that through



cooperation with local authorities, most cases are resolved within months.

ADT sponsors the AWARE program as part of its longtime commitment to helping create safer homes and communities. For more information about AWARE and how to get your community to participate, visit www.adt.com.

Domestic violence...Did you know?

- Thirty-five percent of female visits to emergency rooms each year are for treatment of physical abuse from a husband or partner.
- ➤ One in three teenagers report experiencing violence in a dating relationship.
- ➤ Fifty to 80 percent of teens in national surveys report knowing someone they believe is involved in a violent relationship.
- ➤ Young women ages 16 to 24 experience the highest rates of relationship violence.
- ➤ Violent relationships when you are a teen can have serious consequences— victims are at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, and repeat victimization as an adult.
- ➤ Eighty-one percent of parents surveyed believed dating violence is not a problem or admitted that they did not know anything about the problem.

What are you and your community doing to help? Does your community plan activities to highlight Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week every February? For ideas, check out: www.ncpc.org/topics/violence/Strategy\_Teaching\_Teens\_To\_Prevent\_Dating\_Violence.php

For a free toolkit endorsed by the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) on teen dating violence, visit the American Bar Association at: www.abanet.org/unmet/toolkitmaterials.html.

For more information on the NCPC program Youth Outreach for Victim Assistance (YOVA) and how teens in several states are working to prevent dating violence, visit: www.ncpc.org/programs/yova/index.php.

## 10 Tips for Selecting an Electronic Security System

The National Burglar & Fire Alarm Association (NBFAA) recommends these steps for consumers seeking the services of a reputable and experienced burglar and fire alarm installing company.

- Contact the NBFAA or your state burglar and fire alarm association for a list of member companies in your area. The association's members agree to maintain a high level of conduct under its National Code of Ethics and render services at the highest level of quality.
- Call several companies. Ask them if their employees are trained and/or certified by the NBFAA.
- 3. Ask the companies if they have appropriate state and/or local licenses, if required.
- 4. Ask the companies if they conduct any preemployment screening.
- 5. Contact your local police department's Crime Prevention Department, state licensing agencies, consumer protection agencies, and the Better Business Bureau.
- 6. Ask your insurance agent, friends, family or neighbors for referrals.
- 7. After you've narrowed the field to three or four alarm companies, ask for the name of the person who will call on you. Consider planning the appointment time when all members of your household are present.
- 8. When he/she visits, ask to see some company identification.
- 9. Ask each alarm company representative for an inspection, recommendation and a quote in writing. Use a checklist to compare different packages and price quotes.
- 10. To learn more about home security systems, call the NBFAA Marketing Department at 888-447-1689.

NBFAA strongly advocates the development and enforcement of effective state licensing laws that require pre-employment background checks, among other measures.

## NCPC Launches First National Blog on Crime Prevention

The National Crime Prevention Council recently launched the first national blog on crime prevention. The blog, titled Prevention Works, features the latest news and ideas in crime prevention and offers an opportunity for discussion of a variety of topics. Each posting by NCPC emphasizes how to keep crime prevention at the leading edge in the fight to keep communities safe from crime or take them back from criminals. The postings will talk about how to deal with issues ranging from cybercrime and violence in schools to personal safety issues such as identity theft and home invasion.

"The most effective path to safer neighborhoods is to stop crime before it starts," said NCPC President and CEO Alfonso E. Lenhardt in launching Prevention Works. "Fighting the tide of crime is a continuous job that requires each of us to get involved in our communities, connect with local law enforcement, and work together with our neighbors."

The blog is the NCPC's latest endeavor to use technology to expand its crime prevention outreach and education efforts. Thus far, postings have included discussions about such issues as:

- Recently, a number of major cities have experienced an increase in crime violence. Some cities report a sudden rise in robberies and other violent crimes. In many cases, the spike has been attributed to juveniles.
- Discussion of retail fraud and how many blogs are sharing schemes to cheat retailers. The rise in retail fraud has caused several retailers to change policies, adversely affecting consumers as a result.
- Review of new federal laws to create a national database of convicted sex offenders. The blog discusses the intent of the new laws and the effects of having people register as sex offenders. Currently, an estimated 100,000 offenders are not registered.
- Rebuilding communities to make them safe after natural disasters as the anniversaries of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita approached.

For more information on the Prevention Works blog, visit www.ncpc.org/blog.

## NCPC Resources: Here Are Some Ways NCPC Can Help You.

NCPC publishes high-quality materials on a wide range of subjects and in varied formats, including books, booklets, brochures, monographs, videos, program kits, and posters. To purchase NCPC publications, call 800-NCPC-911 or visit our secure online store at www.mcgruffstore.org. For a free catalog, call 800 NCPC-911. For a free subscription to Catalyst, NCPC's newsletter, email catalyst@ncpc.org.

#### Join the McGruff Network

Do you teach people about personal safety or crime prevention? Do you use McGruff and related materials in your work, or would you like to? Then join the McGruff Network!

The McGruff Network brings together law enforcement officers and others working in crime prevention to make it easier for them to do their jobs, collaborate with others in the field, and get the word out about crime prevention. You can learn more about the McGruff Network at http:// www.ncpc.org/law/about.php or by emailing mcgruff@ ncpc.org. It's free!

#### McGruff National Licensing Program

If you're looking for entertaining and effective ways to reinforce crime prevention messages, our licensees offer hundreds of options. Products featuring McGruff the Crime Dog and his nephew Scruff run the gamut from pencils, stickers, lapel pins, dolls, books, and apparel to educational videos, costumes, and fully animated robots. For more information, contact our Licensing Department at 202-261-4126.

#### Public Service Advertisements (PSAs)

We produce PSAs featuring McGruff the Crime Dog, his nephew Scruff, and the "Take A Bite Out Of Crime" slogan to promote crime prevention for television, radio, print (newspapers and magazines), out-of-home (billboards and posters), and the Web. State crime prevention programs and associations can localize these ads with their own contact information. For more information, contact the Communications Department at 202-261-4126.

#### **Training Opportunities**

NCPC offers a variety of interactive training programs that range in the scope from comprehensive crime prevention planning for whole jurisdictions to prevention strategies for teens, children, and families. For more information, visit www.ncpc.org/training.

#### Conferences

The National Conference on Preventing Crime features workshops, plenary sessions, exhibitors, the McGruff store, and plenty of inspiration to maintain the momentum for crime prevention. It attracts diverse prevention partners to learn about crime prevention trends, issues, programs, and strategies. Next conference: October 3-5, 2007, in Atlanta, GA. For more information, visit www.ncpc.org/training/ National\_Conference.php.

#### Websites

www.ncpc.org is NCPC's primary online resource center. This website offers something for everyone. Whether you are searching for information on our latest conference, purchasing a licensed product, downloading a new publication, or learning more about McGruff, this website has

www.mcgruff.org, our popular children's website, is now called Mcgruff.org's Milstein Child Safety Center and offers information, activities, and links for children, families, and other adults interested in protecting children. Children can write letters to McGruff and get immediate advice on topics such as dealing with bullies, staying safe when home alone, and using the Internet responsibly. They can navigate through mazes, read comic books, and learn safety tips.

#### **Youth Programs**

McGruff Club reaches out to kids ages 6 to 10 to teach them important safety lessons while getting them actively involved in their communities through service projects.

To learn more, visit www.mcgruff.org.

Teens, Crime, and the Community (TCC) offers a tested and proven curriculum that combines education and action to reduce teen victimization and involve young people in making their communities safer. To learn more, visit www.ncpc.org/programs/tcc.

Youth Outreach for Victim Assistance (YOVA) is a partnership of the National Crime Prevention Council and the National Center for Victims of Crime. Teams of young people in nearly two dozen communities work to help their peers prevent crime and get assistance if victim-



## The Power of Prevention: Ten Action Principles





W PREVENTING CRIME IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS.















### 12 PREVENTING

CRIME REQUIRES COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION BY ALL ELEMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY.



EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT.





## Tips For Teachers

Each day when we pick up the local newspaper or log onto an online news site, we see opportunities to learn about crime prevention. In this exercise, we ask you to put your crime prevention knowledge to the test.

Teachers, ask your students to review the newspaper or an online news site for crime stories. Once they have identified a story that discusses crime, have them make a list of actions that could have been taken to prevent the crime from happening in the first place.

Use the information provided in this supplement to assist in the discussion.

Activity example: Let's say that your students read an article about a man who was mugged while walking home alone. Have the students figure out ways in which this mugging could have been prevented.

Ideas might include:

- There's safety in numbers.
   Try to walk with others when possible.
- Keep to well lighted areas.
- Carry your wallet inside your coat or jacket – never in a back pocket.
- Use a purse with a secure clasp and keep it close to your body.

Read today's newspaper to see how well students can recognize ways in which crime can be prevented.



## Newspaper Activities For The Classroom

Look in the newspaper for groups and organizations that help to make people feel safe. Including articles on police, watchdog groups, neighborhood crime watch, organizations that help and protect battered women, etc. How do these groups help people feel safe? Find out more information about the organization online. Write a letter thanking them for their work.

Find an example in the newspaper of a crime (stealing, murder, etc.) and write down all the people negatively influenced by this crime. Think of the scope of consequences. What are the consequences for the criminal's family, friends, neighbors? How does this crime impact the "quality of life" in the community? In what ways does society pay for the problems of individual members?

Find articles about identity theft and other consumer frauds. Summarize the story by identifying the 5W's and the H (who, what, when, where, why & how) of the story. Then read commentaries in the newspaper. Using them as examples, write a brief commentary suggesting ways to stop this type of crime and how perpetrators should be punished.

Find two or three stories about laws being broken. Imagine that the perpetrator has waived the right to a jury trial and you are the judge. Although we should not assume guilt just because someone is accused or arrested for a crime, for our purposes the accused is guilty and you must determine the appropriate sentence, whether jail, community service, fine, restitution, etc.

- Decide on the sentence, and give the reasons for your decision.
- Compare your decision with others who have chosen the same stories.

Chart community crimes for a week or a month using reports and articles in the newspaper. Chart the type of crime, age of the criminal, location, etc.

Find a story about someone who has committed a crime. What values did the person violate in his unlawful actions? Was he caring too much about himself over the welfare of others?

Imagine that you, or a member of your family, are the victim of a crime reported in today's paper. Write a letter to the person(s) who committed the crime.

In today's newspaper, look for an example of a law that was broken. Determine whether the example is a violation of federal, state or local law.

Find examples of violence or inappropriate behavior in today's newspaper. Clip the articles and tell how the situations could have been handled more positively.

In your newspaper, look for patterns of injustice. With your class, discuss what action might be effective in eliminating that injustice. Decide what you, as individuals or a group, can do.

In today's newspaper, look for an example of someone being truthful or honest and an example of someone being untruthful or dishonest. Compare the consequences for each. Continue this activity over several days.

Select five newspaper stories that clearly convey a character trait. When you have isolated the trait, write a slogan or motto that applies to the story: (e.g., "Tell the truth and save court costs.")

Look for a cartoon in which someone says something insulting or calls another a name. Discuss how you would feel and how you would react if you were the person being insulted.

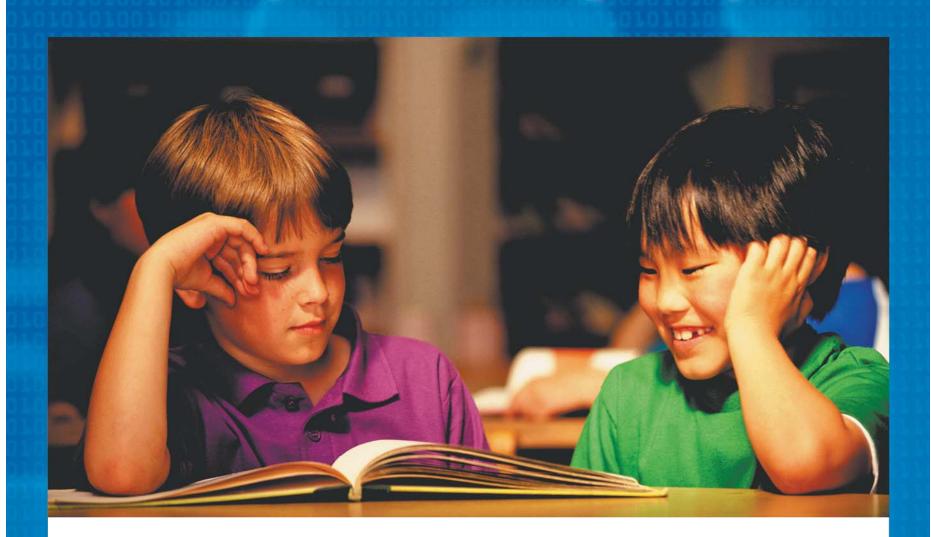
The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) thanks the readers, teachers, and students reading this supplement and taking part in safety and crime prevention awareness. There are many measures we can take to protect our communities and ourselves when we take the time to learn how to get involved in crime prevention. Law enforcement officers cannot do their job without each of us watching out and helping out. Reading and learning about home and school safety and crime prevention is a great step forward.

NCPC and McGruff the Crime Dog® want to thank ADT Security Services for partnering with us on this national supplement about home and school safety and security during Crime Prevention Month. NCPC and ADT continue to collaborate on several projects. As a signature piece of our partnership every year, we work with the U.S. Department of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Assistance on the Crime Prevention Month Kit, which provides strategies and reproducible materials to help communities work together with law enforcement to prevent and reduce crime. Each year the kit is distributed to more than 85,000 crime prevention practitioners, schools, libraries, businesses, and community groups across all 50 states. We extend a special thank you to Ann Lindstrom and Karen Carney for providing us with consistent partnership support and indispensable information and resources from ADT. Thank you, ADT Security Services, Inc., for doing your part to help prevent crime.

Together we can all work to Take A Bite Out of Crime!®



ADT Security Services, Inc. www.adt.com



## "Thank you."

A special thanks to ADT Security Services, Inc. and the National Crime Prevention Council for supporting this Crime Prevention Month supplement.

ADT has been the leading innovator in security for over 130 years, and today it protects thousands of schools around the country. McGruff the Crime Dog® has been teaching children and helping communities "Take a Bite Out of Crime®" for 25 years. ADT is working with the National Crime Prevention Council to help make schools and communities safer.

1-800-ADT-ASAP® wv

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