

COMMUNITY

Protect Your Neighborhood Against Crime, Terrorism

NewsUSA

(NU) - There is something every resident of each neighborhood can do to make it safe and protect against both crime and terrorism.

How are crime and terrorism related? Many criminals operate by stealth; so do many terrorists. Crime can terrorize a neighborhood; what terrorists could do to a neighborhood is criminal. Both rely on people not witnessing or not reporting suspicious events.

The good news for neighborhoods is that residents can take the same set of basic actions to protect and strengthen their communities against both crime and terrorism. These actions, which range from protecting yourself to helping others, don't demand high levels of investment. Modest amounts of time and resources can make a sizable difference.

Here are a few key strategies:

- **Prepare your home.** This may include installing sturdier locks, keeping a family emergency supply kit or trimming shrubbery to keep areas visible.

- **Know your neighbors.** Keep in touch and help each other when needed.

- **Get organized.** Start or join a Neighborhood Watch or a civic association.

- **Get training from local law enforcement agencies.** Learn about home and street security and how to recognize and report

suspicious activities.

- **Organize a Citizens' Emergency Response Team.**

This group will work in your neighborhood in event of disasters or other emergencies. Your local fire department can provide details.

- **Take a long, thorough look at your neighborhood.** Work on its problems. Clean up parks, fix up yards, improve entryways and work together to supervise kids at play.

Solving problems improves life for all residents and makes your neighborhood look more attractive. And the more time and effort you invest in your neighborhood, the more you'll know what's right and what isn't.

Want to learn more? The United for a Stronger America campaign provides a free booklet, "United for a Stronger America: Citizens' Preparedness Guide," that offers more details on what you and your neighbors can do. Call 1-800-627-2911 for a free copy, or visit www.weprevent.org/usa/cover.pdf to download the booklet.

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