



Halton Regional Police Service

Keeping Your Neighbourhood Safe



Introduction:

Crime is not randomly distributed. It results from the convergence in time and space of a potential criminal with a suitable target, in a location and situation that favours an offender.

Crime prevention is the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of a crime risk, and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED):

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a proactive crime prevention strategy predicated on the belief that proper design and management of a built environment, including parking lots, parks, schools and just about anything in a community can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime and an improvement in the quality of life.

Benefits of CPTED:

- Reduces crime and the perception of crime
- Reduces liability
- Saves costs (initial development)
- Promotes partnerships and enhances problem-solving
- Improves the quality of life for all

Territorial Reinforcement:

Territorial reinforcement creates clear borders of controlled space from public to semi-private so that community members develop a sense of proprietorship over them, thereby discouraging potential offenders.



Surveillance and Access Control:

Surveillance is designed to keep potential criminals under the threat of surveillance so as to deter them from offending.

Access Control increases the perceived risk to potential offenders, thereby denying them access to potential crime targets.

The three types of surveillance/access control are: natural, mechanical and organized.

Vehicle Safety Tips:

- Always lock your car when entering and leaving it
- Have your keys in hand when approaching your car
- Do not pick up hitchhikers
- Do not stop to offer help to a stranded motorist. Call for assistance from your cellular telephone or neighbouring business.
- If you suspect someone is following you, drive to the nearest service station, drive-in restaurant or police station, and blow your horn for help
- If you experience car trouble in a dark area, raise the hood of your vehicle, lock yourself in and wait for police to arrive. Do not exit your car if a stranger offers assistance. Ask them to call for help instead.

Home Safety Tips:

- Secure all doors and windows
- Install dead bolt locks on all exterior doors

- Draw window shades and blinds after dark
- Install dimmers and lights to create the impression that someone is home
- Do not put your first name on your mailbox or in the telephone directory
- Place house numbers in well-lit areas that are easily visible to neighbours and Emergency Services personnel
- Should a stranger request to use your telephone, do not allow the person to enter. Offer to make the call yourself.
- Should you return home to find your door and/or windows tampered with, do not call out. Go to a neighbour's and call the police.

Home Security Checklist:

- ☐ Ensure dead bolt locks on all external doors are secure
- ☐ Ensure the lower track of each sliding door is equipped with a fitted piece of wood or metal
- ☐ Lock all windows, garages and sheds
- ☐ Ensure all property is properly stored
- ☐ Draw curtains on basement and garage windows
- ☐ Activate alarms, and radio and light timers
- ☐ Turn exterior lighting on
- ☐ Always leave your home with a 'lived-in' look
- ☐ Do not leave notes about your status on your door

For more information, contact:

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