

# Home Security Survey

## Study Guide

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

### **Several basic crime prevention ideas are:**

1. Criminals are less likely to target areas where they feel their actions will be seen, recognized, and reported.
2. Good landscaping and lighting can be used to minimize hiding spots for criminals and maximize the ability of property owners, surrounding neighbors, and passers-by to observe activity on the property.
3. Properties that are well cared for and have clearly defined boundaries are less desirable to criminals because property owners appear more likely to take action to protect their property, and strangers (including criminals) are more easily recognized as being out-of-place.
4. Areas with positive activity increase the reporting of criminal activity, sometimes before the crime can be committed.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, or CPTED is a crime control philosophy that attempts to apply physical design, citizen participation and law enforcement strategies in a comprehensive way to protect facilities or neighbors. The goal of CPTED is to reduce the opportunity for crime to occur. CPTED is the proper design and effective use of the built environment that can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, and an improvement in the equality of life.

### **Key CPTED concepts are:**

1. Natural Surveillance: which is the organization of physical features, activities, and people in such a way as to maximize visibility. It creates a risk of detection to intruders and offenders, and a perception of safety to the legitimate users.
2. Natural Access Control: would be perpetrators of crime like settings or environments they can enter or leave without being notified. The objective of natural access control is to create a perception of risk to potential offenders and deny them access to targets.
3. Territoriality: includes the use of physical attributed that express ownership, such as fences, pavement treatments, art, signage and landscaping.

### **Three steps you can take for improving the safety of your property and neighborhood are:**

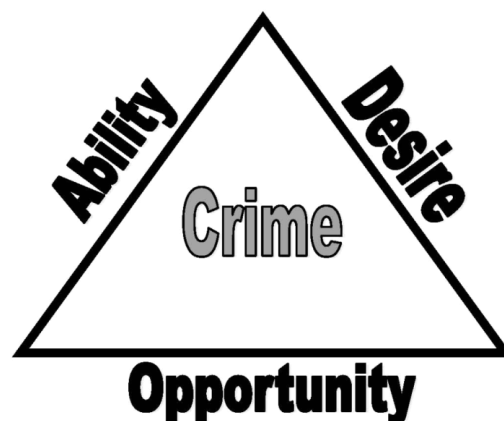
1. Identify features on your property which increase opportunities for criminal activity. Complete a survey of your own property. Note anything in the physical environment that can give criminals the edge (dark areas, hiding places, etc.).
2. Decide on ways to decrease criminal opportunities by improving landscaping and lighting.
3. Implement your ideas. This is the most important step. Many people don't take action until after they have been the victim of a crime.

In 2017, there was an estimated 1.4 million residential burglaries in the United States according to the Uniformed Crime Report released by the FBI. Some of these burglaries could have been prevented simply by making a home more difficult to enter and less appealing to burglars. Remember: Keep your doors and windows locked and your garage doors closed, whether you are at home or not. Most burglaries are committed through unlocked doors/windows.

### **General Recommendations:**

- **Lighting**
  - Be careful about too much glare from lights. Use shielding (no exposed bulbs), when appropriate, and direct light where you want it to go (usually down).
  - Make sure your lights do not shine into neighbors' windows, causing them to close their blinds. This eliminates natural surveillance to your property.
  - Lights should be protected from being easily unscrewed or damaged.

- Consider photoelectric “eyes” for lights where constant lighting is needed or desired, such as for entry points and certain walkways.
- Consider motion sensor lighting for areas where constant lighting is unnecessary or not desired, but where light would be beneficial when activity (either positive or negative) is occurring there, such as certain walkways, driveways, back and side yards, etc.
- **Landscaping**
  - Bushes/shrubs should be pruned to a maximum height of 3 feet and/or any bushes/shrubs near windows should be pruned at least 6 inches below window level.
  - Trees should be pruned to remove most or all branches less than 6 feet from the ground.
  - Areas where you would like to discourage activity (such as below windows) can be landscaped with thorny bushes.
  - Bushes, shrubs, trees, fences, or other items which prevent you or neighbors from observing people on your property or allow criminals a place to hide or commit crimes out of sight.
    - Think: “Could a criminal break-in through a door or window to my home or attack someone on my property without being easily seen by neighbors or passing street traffic?”
  - Property lines between public use areas (streets, sidewalks, or neighboring parks) and semi-private (your lawn, driveway, front steps) or private areas (porch, backyard, garage) are not clearly defined.
    - Think: “Can strangers or neighbors easily tell where the boundaries to my property are?”
    - “How easily can neighbors identify if someone is on my property intentionally?”
- **Physical Security**
  - Deadbolts must throw at least one inch and be made of hardened steel. The cylinder guard must be tapered, round, and free spinning to make it difficult to grip with pliers or a wrench.
  - A heavy duty strike plate will increase the security of the door frame and make it harder to be kicked in. The heavy duty strike plate uses between four and six, 3 inch screws instead of two or four, quarter inch screws that are in regular plates.
- **Miscellaneous**
  - Make sure that your house numbers are visible from the street at all times. This is very important and can save police officers, fire fighters, and paramedic’s valuable time when responding to your home.



Crime Prevention strives to remove the opportunity