

HOW TO REDUCE CRIME IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

While we don't like to talk about it—or even think about it—crime is on the rise in America, and throughout the world. The number of burglars, muggers, auto thieves, robbers, purse snatchers, etc. is growing at an alarming rate. Now you, and your neighbors can help reduce this crime rate.

How? By organizing and/or joining a neighborhood program in which you and your neighbors get together to learn how to protect yourselves, your families, your homes, and your property. Working together, you can deter criminals from your area.

There's safety and power in numbers. You'll get to know your neighbors better, develop a more united community, provide an avenue of communications between police and citizens, establish on-going crime prevention techniques in your neighborhood, and renew citizen interest in community activity.

"Citizen Safety Projects" it is a joint effort between private citizens and local police to help you protect your neighborhood. Such programs have been started all over the country and could already exist in your community.

These organizations don't require more than bi-monthly or monthly meetings and they leave the responsibility for catching criminals where it belongs—with the police. This is *not a* "vigilante" group!

These groups gather citizens together to learn crime prevention from local authorities. You cooperate with your neighbors to report suspicious activities in the neighborhood, to keep an eye on homes when the resident is away, and to keep everyone in the area mindful of the standard precautions for property and

self that should always be taken. Criminals avoid neighborhoods where such groups exist.

Through cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, some of the things you will learn at no charge are:

1. What to do in an emergency
2. How to best identify a suspicious person
3. How to identify a vehicle being used in a suspected criminal activity
4. Signs to watch out for before entering a house or apartment that may be in the process of being burglarized
5. What to do in case of injury
6. What to do about suspicious people loitering on your street
7. How to identify stolen merchandise
8. How to recognize an auto theft in progress
9. How to protect your house or apartment
10. How to recognize a burglary in progress
11. How to protect yourself and your family
...and much more

It's easy to get your group started. All you need to do is contact your neighbors and arrange a date, place and time for the first meeting. Hold the meetings at your home or that of a neighbor. Try to plan a time that is convenient for most of your neighbors—preferably in the evening.

Then call your local police department. They will be happy to give your group informal lectures, free literature—and in many instances, window stickers and ID cards. Remember, police officers can't be everywhere. Your cooperation with them is for the benefit of you, your family, your neighbors and your neighborhood.