



Simple Steps to Crime Prevention

Step 1:

Take preventative measures for personal security and safety. This includes the reinforcement of behaviors and applications to make us less attractive to criminals. Some of these include focus points on personal safety and environmental factors and include, but are not limited to:

Personal-

- Remain alert and aware of your surroundings
- Know where you are going
- Bring a phone with you when you are outside
- Use the track my family application
- Be aware of what you post on the internet as well as internet/social media security settings
- Trust your instincts – if something doesn't look or feel right, it might not be

Environmental-

- Never leave valuables in plain sight in a vehicle
- Lock vehicle doors and never leave a running vehicle unattended
- Locking doors and windows at home/business
- Ample lighting around the home/business
- Locking bicycles
- Using an alarm system
- Creating a safe environment

Step 2:

Get to know your neighbors, your neighborhood and to immediately report any suspicious occurrences, people or vehicles to police by calling 9-1-1 or 970-479-2200.

Some may ask, "What is suspicious?" As a resident or business owner of a neighborhood, one is aware of the particular nuances, behaviors, vehicles and people commonly associated with the routine and/or general operations of the business or neighborhood. Suspicious activities may include:

- A particular vehicle in the neighborhood driving slowly or parked in an odd location.
- A vehicle parked at or near a residence when the homeowner(s) are away, or at a business that is closed.
- A vehicle which circles around a home or business several times and/or parks nearby and the
- Open door or window that is normally closed at a residence or at a business that is not open.
- A vehicle at a construction site that pulls in after hours.
- Door-to-door solicitors in a neighborhood who are unable to prove that they are affiliated with a local and routine school program (magazine solicitors have commonly been part of a scam).
- A package or luggage left unattended.
- A person eliciting questions at a level beyond curiosity about a building's purpose, operations, security procedures and/or personnel, shift changes, etc.
- Someone pays unusual attention to facilities or buildings beyond a casual or professional interest.
- Extended loitering without explanation (particularly in concealed locations); unusual, repeated, and/or prolonged observation of a residence or business (e.g., with binoculars or video camera); taking notes or measurements; counting paces; sketching floor plans, etc.
- If a person or vehicle is out of place for the area.

Keeping you, your family and your valuables safe requires us to be vigilant of suspicious activities and reporting these activities immediately to police. While the list above is an abbreviated summary of awareness factors to reduce crime, a more comprehensive list may be found at the National Crime Prevention Council.

Please note – The "If you see something, say something" campaign respects citizens' privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties by emphasizing behavior, rather than appearance, in identifying suspicious activity. Factors such as race, ethnicity, and/or religious affiliation are not suspicious.