

Crime Prevention Basics

Morganton Department of Public Safety

Criminal Investigations Division
In conjunction with the
Special Operations Division



Objectives

- Discover how to implement the 10 Action Principles of crime prevention in your community.



Objectives (continued)

- Learn the benefits of crime prevention.
- List the 4 Ds of crime prevention.
- Explore the best practices of crime prevention.
- Learn how to gain support from community stakeholders for crime prevention efforts.

Traditional Definition of Crime Prevention

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

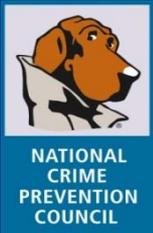
Source: National Crime Prevention Institute, 1972



Crime Prevention Redefined

Crime prevention is a pattern of attitudes and behaviors directed at reducing the threat of crime and enhancing the sense of safety and security, to positively influence the quality of life in our society, and to develop environments where crime cannot flourish.

Source: National Crime Prevention Council, 1990



Crime Prevention Approaches: Reactive Versus Proactive Policing

- Most common activities of a modern police force are still *reactive*.
 - Police react after a crime has occurred
 - Investigation and arrest are the focal points
- This traditional approach
 - Does not stop crime from occurring
 - Does not address the causes of crime



Crime Prevention is *Proactive*

Crime prevention is designed to

- Examine crime trends
- Analyze and work toward positive alternatives to community and neighborhood conditions
- Educate and involve communities in crime prevention strategies
- Create an atmosphere of zero tolerance toward crime and criminal activity



Examples of Proactive Policing

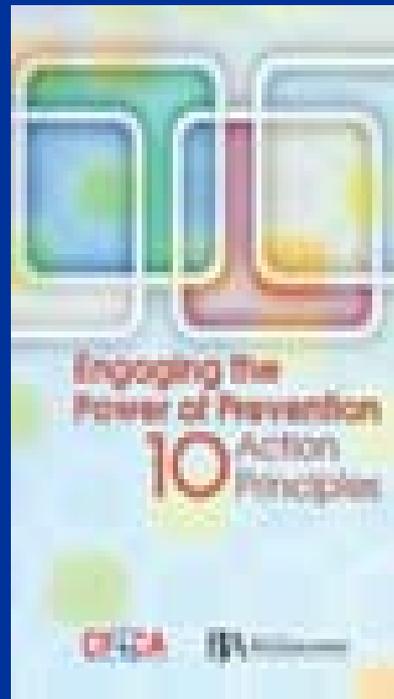
- Neighborhood and community watch programs
- Security surveys for homes and communities
- Having people engrave their property
- Encouraging people to register equipment and maintain logs of all valuables
- Having high-quality locks and lighting on personal property and within communities

Development of Crime Prevention's 10 Action Principles

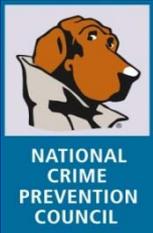
- The National Crime Prevention Council's Crime Prevention Coalition of America conducted more than two years of research and discussion.
- Twenty-six groups participated in two days of focus group meetings.
- A national roundtable of crime prevention specialists and researchers was convened.
- The steering committee interpreted the membership's concerns and shaped them into major tenets.



Engaging the Power of Prevention: 10 Action Principles



National Crime Prevention Council

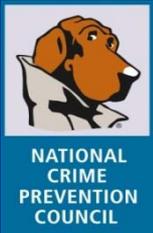


10 Action Principles of Crime Prevention

Preventing crime is

1. Everyone's business
2. More than security
3. A responsibility of all levels and agencies of government
4. Linked with solving social problems
5. Cost-effective

Source: National Crime Prevention Council



10 Action Principles of Crime Prevention (continued)

Preventing crime requires

6. A central role in law enforcement
7. Cooperation and collaboration by all elements of the community
8. Education
9. Tailoring to local needs and conditions
10. Continual testing and improvement

Source: National Crime Prevention Council



Benefits of Crime Prevention

- A revived sense of personal civic responsibility
- Greater freedom and security
- Increased respect
- Increased individual and collective pride in self and community
- Healthier, more interdependent communities

Benefits of Crime Prevention (continued)

- Engages the community (businesses, elected officials, organizations, faith community)
- Involves stakeholders, who in turn
 - Get different groups committed to a program
 - Obtain funding



Benefits of Crime Prevention: Saves Money



These are some examples of how crime prevention can save money.

- Settles disputes without violence
- Prevents juvenile violence
- Better street lighting

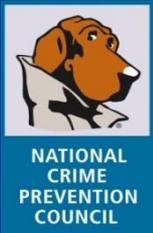
Benefits of Crime Prevention: Saves Money (continued)

- Applies Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles
 - Accessibility
 - Surveillance
 - Territoriality
 - Physical maintenance
 - Order maintenance

The Importance of Crime Trends

Trends change our lives.

- In 1982, how would you have called for emergency road service? Today?
- In 1982, how could you get cash out of your bank in a strange city at 1:00 a.m.? Today?
- In 1982, how big was a high-quality personal music player? Today?
- In 1982, how bulky were televisions? Today?



Recent Crime Trends

- Phishing
- Cyberbullying
- Identity theft
- Terrorism
- Newer drugs



The Four Ds of Crime Prevention

- **Deny**—Entry or the opportunity for crime to occur
- **Delay**—Entry and heighten awareness
- **Detect**—Unlawful entry via devices
- **Deter**—Criminals from committing a crime