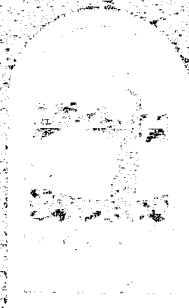


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PREFACE

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Funded by the Criminal Justice Division, Office of the Governor, State of Texas.

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INTRODUCTION

By
William D. Kirkpatrick

During my travels throughout the ten-county Capital Area Planning Council (CAPCO) region (see following map), and in my discussions with many law enforcement officers, it came to my attention that written resources, other than brief folders or brochures, were rather scarce. For this reason, "Clues Against Crime" has been produced as a general resource booklet for those persons sworn to uphold the law.

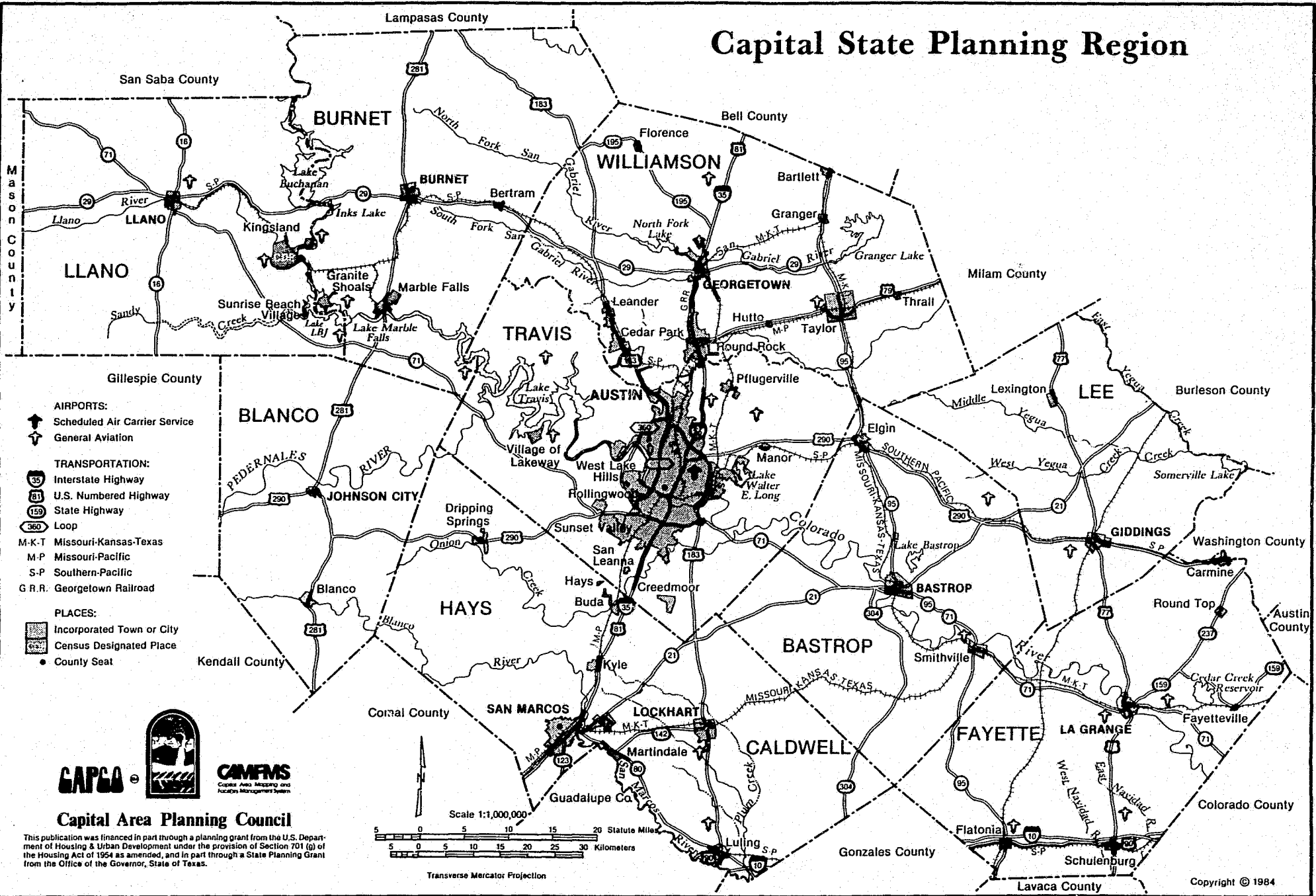
No booklet of this size could pretend to be an all-inclusive work on every aspect of crime or crime prevention; however, the topics addressed herein, with possibly one or two exceptions, deal with the everyday life of ordinary citizens in Central Texas. I not only hear them discussed regularly, but I also present programs throughout the region dealing with these subjects.

"Clues Against Crime" was written by people in the CAPCO region who are fighting crime on a daily basis. Most of the writers are on the streets of their towns every day and speak from experience. They corporately represent well over 150 years of experience in dealing with and/or preventing crime.

When the reader of "Clues Against Crime" reads a particular chapter of special interest, I believe that the author of that chapter would welcome a letter or phone call offering either praise or constructive criticism. We all learn together.

I am extremely pleased to offer to you for your reading enlightenment a joint effort, "Clues Against Crime."

Capital State Planning Region



CHAPTER 1

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN

By
William D. Kirkpatrick

We are all born with a certain degree of survival instinct. But it's largely dependent upon how we control our emotions and apply our will to survive when confronted by an emergency that may prove true the old expression, "The life you save may be your own."

Because many personal crimes take place on the spur of the moment (of opportunity), we must plan our self-protection strategy in advance in order to be aware of a reasonable way in which to react in an emergency situation. Some of the situations in which we may find ourselves are spelled out below along with preventive measures to consider.

While driving. Always lock your car doors immediately after getting into your car. This can become a good habit after several conscious efforts. Remember, a lock is not a lock unless it's locked. If you have any objects of value with you (such as a purse or package), place them on the floor of your car out of sight from the street. By removing the visibility of an opportunity, you may prevent a theft. Thieves have been known to stand at traffic signals looking for a purse or package on the seat beside a lone driver, then yank the right side door open (if unlocked) or smash the glass, grab the object, and escape through the traffic.

If your car should stall, be very sure that it's safe to get out before you do. Raise the hood quickly and get back inside your car and lock the door. If a motorist stops to ask if he or she can help, lower your window enough to speak through a small opening and ask the motorist to call the police for you. You are usually much safer inside of your locked car than you are standing beside it or walking to get help. The best prevention of car trouble is good maintenance of your car - always.

While walking. Walk with a purpose and an outward show of confidence, with head and eyes up, scanning the area around you at all times. It has been said that the world steps aside for a person who knows where he's going. An attacker or purse snatcher looks for a passive, nonresistant target of opportunity. Walk away from buildings, near the street edge of the sidewalk where you can be better seen by others. Avoid vacant parking lots and unlit or poorly lit streets and pedestrian paths. Never carry more money in cash than you can afford to lose!

Men, carry your wallet in a front coat or front trousers pocket, especially when in crowds. Pickpockets prefer the back trousers pocket because it's the easiest, most accessible pocket from which to remove a wallet. Ladies, carry a small purse under your arm. Keep your cash in an inside pocket of your skirt or jacket. If a thief snatches your purse, very

little is lost. A shoulder strap can be dangerous if a thief violently grabs your purse. As you tend to clutch it more tightly, you may be jerked to the ground and injured in the fall.

While shopping. Be careful not to burden yourself down with too many packages, bundles, grocery sacks, or other items to be able to move freely to and from your car or house. It's much safer to take several trips with light, manageable armfuls than to take one overloaded trip wherein you become an easy target for a thief. Wear comfortable shoes so that you can run if required.

If you are grocery shopping and pushing a cart, do not leave your money in your shopping cart. Many wallets have been stolen from carts. In fact, the smoother thieves often remove only the cash, as it generally cannot be identified by the owner if the thief is apprehended. Remain observant and alert in order to anticipate problems and plan a reaction to them, but do all you can to prevent a problem from happening.

While jogging. Many people who jog a lot are nature lovers by design, but nature trails can be hazardous to your health and safety, especially if your time schedule is regular and predictable. An old mountain climber's rule, "Never climb alone," could be modified to apply to jogging in isolated areas, "Never jog alone." People sometimes think they need not be afraid in an area they know well; however, you don't have to be afraid to get hurt. You only need to be in a vulnerable location or situation. When jogging, especially when alone, jog near well-lighted, well-travelled streets.

While socializing. When you go out to dinner with friends, prearrange signals by telephone ahead of time. When you part company and drive back home, telephone your friends to let them know you arrived home safely. It only takes a few seconds; if you don't call, they can call you. If you don't answer your phone in a reasonable period of time, they can start to find out why you've been delayed, either by personally driving your route home, or by calling the police for assistance. When we keep in touch we lessen the isolation and opportunity for crime.

Should you approach your residence after being absent for a few hours and something looks suspicious, such as a door ajar or a window open or broken, don't go in! Drive on by to a neighbor's house and call the police. Let an armed officer go in because a burglar could still be in the house. Don't play vigilante or hero with facts unknown, or at any time when you may be placing your own life in jeopardy. Let a trained law enforcement officer check your residence if you have any doubt.

While working. Many of us travel to work and back home on a daily basis and become so accustomed to the route that we can almost drive the trip automatically. At work, however, we can still take measures to protect ourselves and our property. Be careful where you put your purse, your tool box, or other possessions. They can quickly disappear! Never assume

that a person, unknown to you but walking around in your place of work, belongs there. Check them out by asking questions. Find out who they came to see or what they came to do. They may plan to steal equipment.

Be careful where you leave the keys to filing cabinets, storage rooms, or offices. Keys can be duplicated without your knowledge by dishonest people and used to burglarize your business. Do not leave unknown visitors alone. Escort them to the person they are looking for, or to the door!

At home. We should not feel like we are prisoners in our own home. We can, however, take measures to be safer at home without becoming paranoid about safety. Your front door should have a 190 degree angle "peephole" or viewer installed in it. You can easily look through the viewer when somebody rings your doorbell or knocks on your door; if you don't know them, it's your door. You don't have to open it to any stranger.

Many police departments will conduct a home security survey as described in Chapter 7, at no cost or for a nominal fee. Law enforcement officers can advise you on how to make yourself more secure in your own home. Take advantage of this service in order to "harden" the target and perhaps remove or reduce an opportunity for illegal entry to your residence.

If a burglar should gain entrance to your home, or if you accidentally surprise a burglar inside your residence, proceed with extreme caution. A burglar does not want a personal confrontation with anyone, but when surprised, can become quite desperate, violent, and dangerous. Many burglaries are drug related and many burglars are stealing to support their own drug habit. Never argue with a weapon; better to lose your money or belongings than your life.

Following several muggings at one army installation where I served, the commanding general issued an order that soldiers must walk or travel together in groups of not less than two, using the "buddy" system for protection. The muggings were dramatically reduced.

Whether you are driving, walking, jogging, shopping, socializing, working, or staying at home, remember this basic sage advice. "There is safety in numbers." You will generally present less of an opportunity for crime against your person and your property when you are with another person.

Remember, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." The life you save may be your own.

William D. Kirkpatrick is Crime Prevention Specialist for the Capital Area Planning Council (CAPCO) in Austin, Texas. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee, where he majored in Marketing and Business Administration.

His 26 years of military service took him to 24 countries, including a combat tour in Korea and Vietnam. His military awards include the Master Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and Meritorious Service Medal.

He received the honorary George Washington Medal from the Freedoms Foundation, and is a Life Fellow of the Florida Kiwanis Foundation.

Mr. Kirkpatrick is a graduate of the Basic Crime Prevention for Practitioners Course, Texas Crime Prevention Institute, Southwest Texas State University, and the Citizen Police Academy, Austin Police Department. He and his wife, Vera, live in Austin.

CHAPTER 2

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

By
Jerry O. Robinette

The men and women of our law enforcement agencies can only be effective and fulfill their obligations if they are alive, well, and professionally capable. This renders the ingredient of personal protection training most critical.

The Code of Ethics states that we are "to safeguard lives and property, and protect the innocent and weak against oppression or intimidation and protect the peaceful against violence and disorder." This is as awesome a responsibility as ever imposed on men and women in law enforcement and can only be accomplished through unrelenting personal preparation. This chapter is thus appropriately placed in the beginning of this thesis with the stated fact that the professional in law enforcement must first survive himself to be effective in assuring the survival of those for whom we are responsible.

Due to the potential volume of the subject this chapter will deal only with thoughts on how to protect yourself as it applies to the law enforcement professional.

Attitude

The most critical and necessary ingredient in developing personal protection capabilities for the professional is that of attitude. The personal attitude should consist of a near compulsion to develop, possess, and maintain the highest level of capabilities that the officer is physically and mentally able to attain. Law enforcement officers should expect that their departmental program offers or supports academic and physical programs that meet or exceed the individual officer's willingness to learn and physical capability to attain. If these programs are not available or do not have the professional maturity desirable, then it is the responsibility of the individual officer to acquire the necessary knowledge and talent to formulate and implement a meaningful officer survival program. This may include significant personal sacrifice and effort. This writer can assure you from personal experience that the personal and professional gratification of such an accomplishment for the benefit of your agency and the welfare of fellow officers is most significant.

The simple supporting thesis for this concept is that no one in a position of responsibility should be guilty of not providing every possible advantage to the individual in the critical area of officer survival. The officer, realizing this concern of authority, hopefully should be encouraged to give serious attention to enhancing his individual personal protection capabilities.

Plan

The individual officer should develop a realistic plan based upon available training, personal strength and/or limitations, and personal level of capability as perceived by the officer at the time. This perception of personal capability will change considerably as levels of talents in personal safety and protection are attained. The plan should address attainable goals based on a monthly, quarterly, and yearly timetable.

Goals

Closely allied with the planning effort is that of setting achievement goals as they pertain to gaining capabilities in the area of professional personal protection. These goals should be ambitious so we do not fail to challenge our full capacity. It is suggested that the individual officer solicit the advice of a knowledgeable professional in setting these goals. It is worthwhile to remember that plans and accompanying goals are merely guidelines for accomplishment and should be adjusted according to realistic circumstances. This writer needed nearly four years of adjusted and readjusted planning to reach the first major goal plateau in his initial personal protection program. The development, learning and relearning process has gone on relentlessly for twenty - five years, so do not be discouraged if vast results are not immediately apparent. A major ingredient for the successful completion of a plan and attainment of accompanying goals is that of consistent effort. Professional and personal demands will distract from a consistent effort, but only with this ingredient of consistency is accomplishment of your goals in the area of personal protection attainable.

Composition of Personal Protection Program

The possible desirable ingredients of a professional personal protection program are vast but not limited to the general areas of academic, psychological, firearms, non-firearms weapons, and physical training. Due to the restrictions of this document, only the physical/martial arts training will be addressed, and the outlined training agenda will deal only with unarmed capabilities. Obviously, advanced training should integrate firearms and non-firearms weapons as they are complemented and supported by appropriate martial arts techniques.

The key to successfully dealing with an undesirable situation is appropriate response. Appropriate response is only possible if the officer has been thoroughly trained and proficiency maintained across the entire threat response spectrum. At one extreme of the spectrum is avoidance and diplomacy, neither of which may be possible if the threat is aggressive and persistent. At the other extreme is the use of deadly force. It is between these two extremes that the major portion of the situations develop that are of concern to law enforcement professionals. The responses that are appropriate to minimize professional embarrassment, legal action, injury, or death are not taught in many departments for a variety of reasons.

The responses must be simple, workable, and decisive. This is of critical importance because the situation may involve a variety of weapons, multiple attackers, and no possibility of immediate relief or assistance. This writer is suggesting that each officer take steps to render himself a "professional response machine" when circumstances dictate. To accept any less personal capability constitutes a dire disservice to yourself and those who depend on you to protect them and theirs.

The following outline is offered to the law enforcement professional as a basis for building an individual and departmental personal program. Considerable development of each phase of the outline is desirable and would of course be included in proficiency training, intermediate and advanced personal protection training. The source of this outline is from the Basic Professional Personal Protection course as taught by the Robinette Academy of Personal Protection in Austin, Texas.

- Introductory Lecture
- Development Background
 - Goals
 - Limitations
 - Safety
 - Conditioning
 - Use of Force
- Psychology of Personal Protection
- Rules to Employ
- Tactics and Procedures
 - Approaches/Body Position
 - Vital Points and Pressure Points
- Development of Critical Power
- Development of Weapons of the Body
- Development of Defensive Postures
 - Blocking Techniques
- Attack Response Procedures
- Simulation Exercises
- Practical Warm-Up Exercises
- Dealing With Weapons
 - Hostage Situations
 - Knives
 - Firearms
 - Thrown Weapons

- Down Fighting
- Advanced, Hypermobility Kicking Techniques
- Responding to the Following Attacks:
 - Pushing
 - Grabbing
 - Choking Rear/Front
 - Bear Hugs
 - Arm Behind Back
 - Full Nelson
- Sitting/Automobile-Related Assaults
- Deteriorated Down Fighting
- Responses to Attacks and Holds while on the Ground
- Control Techniques
- Responses to Flexible Weapons Attacks

Considerable dedicated effort is necessary to attain practical proficiency with this program or any comprehensive professional personal protection training program. The content of this program is simple and street practical. The techniques have been used successfully and repeatedly in appropriate situations.

Summary

You should seek professional guidance in the planning process and in establishing realistic goals for your personal protection program. The importance of having experienced professional instruction in the physical and martial arts program cannot be overemphasized.

You are encouraged to strike a plan, establish your goals, and proceed consistently with your program to give you a significant professional competence in the critical area of personal protection and survival.

* * * * *

Colonel Jerry O. Robinette has extensive experience in the personal protection field and has formulated and implemented programs for law enforcement agencies, corporations, and individuals. He is a Master Martial Artist, and a certified Texas Peace Officer.

As a U.S.A.F. fighter pilot and command pilot, Colonel Robinette's military decorations include the Silver Star, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, fourteen Air Medals, and the Bronze Star. He holds the Senior Parachutist Badge and is an FAA Soaring Instructor. He has an extensive background in combat operations, tactical survival and weaponry.

Colonel Robinette graduated from Texas A&M University and has a Master's Degree from The George Washington University. His teaching experience includes The National War College, The Air Force Academy, The University of Texas, and The Robinette Academy of Personal Protection in Austin, Texas.

* * * * *

CHAPTER 3

HOW TO PROTECT CHILDREN

By
Cidneye Godkin

As the saying goes, none stand so tall as those that stoop to help a child. Children are our most precious resource, the wealth of our nation, our hope for the future. One of the most important jobs we as adults can accomplish is the care and responsibility of children. We may not have kids of our own, or ours may be grown and have left the nest, but all adults must and should care for children.

Although parents have the most responsibility for their own children, they cannot be expected to assume 24-hour supervision over their kids. Because eventually all society will pay a price for the maltreatment and neglect of children, it is up to each and every one of us to help protect, support and care for your children, my children, OUR children. Whether we are a parent, in the social services or in law enforcement, we must set up a safety net for the children. For after all, children are "our most important business".

As we teach children the basic safety techniques such as safe ways of crossing the street, and not taking medicines without parents' permission, we also need to teach them more specific information on threats to their safety. Teaching them some basic knowledge will help increase their confidence and self-reliance. Because of the seriousness of the subject, some adults find it hard to talk about safety issues with children. In providing children this important information, we should take care to give concise and careful guidelines. Abundant and vague information may overly frighten children.

If we choose the tactic of not talking about the dangers, it doesn't make the problems facing children any less serious or happen less frequently. Children appreciate being told the truth. They should be given information on dangerous situations, how to spot them and what to do about it. The simplest initial safety techniques to teach children, beginning at age 4 or 5, is to memorize their full names, addresses (including state) and phone numbers (including area codes). Children should be taught the proper use of the telephone and how to dial the operator or "9-1-1". In case of dangerous situations, a phone may be their quickest source of getting help.

Estimates show that between 5-12 million children in the United States between the ages of 5 and 13 are home alone for significant periods of time every day. These "latchkey" children are three times more likely to have accidents, engage in delinquent behavior or become victims than

are supervised children. (1) Children who are left at home alone need to have rules and limits to follow as well as age appropriate levels of responsibility and basic safety information. Although individual households will set up different rules, the following is a list of basic safety techniques for those children at home alone.

- Don't go into the house if a door is ajar or a window is broken.
Call the police from a neighbor's house.
- When arriving home from school, children should check in with parents at work or with a block parent.
- When at home alone, all doors and windows should be locked.
- A list of emergency phone numbers should be posted near the phone.
- Parents should discuss fire escape routes and procedures.
- Never let strangers into the home.
- If a stranger phones, tell them your parents are busy and will call them back later.
- A code word, known only to the child and parents, could be used in the case that a stranger were sent by the parents to pick up the child.
- Never go with an adult you don't know (unless they have given you the code word that your parents told them).
- If you are followed, run to the nearest public place or neighbor.
- Tell your parents if someone asks you to keep a secret, or offers you a gift or money or wants to take your picture.
- Always tell your parents if something or someone makes you feel uncomfortable.

There is a noted difference between home safety rules depending on whether you live in the city or in the country. In the city, there should be a neighborhood block parent, someone for the children to check in with after school. If children are walking or riding bikes home from school, they should have a buddy system in which they walk or ride with someone they know. They should not play in alleyways, construction projects, or abandoned buildings. Children should never be told to hitchhike. Children should use the same route home daily and parents should know the route.

In the country, most children are bussed, and may still have a long walk home. They and their parents should decide the quickest, safest route home, whether the dirt road or the woodsy trail is best. Many kids living in the country may be isolated and not have a really close neighbor. Again, in the case of emergency, the quickest route to the neighbor's home should be discussed in advance. Role playing and "what if" games are a good way of letting children come up with their own course of action.

Also, children living in the country do not have street addresses; they usually have a box or route number. Specific directions to their home should be written on the back of the emergency numbers page for the children to read over the phone to the sheriff's department, ambulance, or fire department.

Children are told quite frequently to watch out for strangers. This is a very good thing to tell children, yet it does not provide adequate strategies for self-protection in the event of a stranger assault. Children need to be told that not all strangers are bad persons, but they do need to be careful. A stranger is a person they do not know very well and even friendly strangers can be dangerous strangers. The first safety rule for kids is keeping two arm lengths away from a stranger when talking to them. This is to keep an extra "getaway" distance between the child and the stranger. Strangers who assault or kidnap children are looking for weak, passive, or quiet kids, who will go without a struggle. Children should know that they have the right to kick, punch, elbow, stomp, wiggle, bite, scratch and pinch to get away. The Child Assault Prevention Project teaches kids a special "safety yell". The yell comes from the diaphragm, not the throat, and is a strong, loud yell. Of course teaching kids to stay away from strangers' cars and not to accept any candy, food, drinks, drugs or gifts from strangers are important safety strategies.

Children should learn identification techniques. Teach them to remember what the stranger was wearing, the color of their skin, height (in comparison with someone they know), and appearance. Kids should try to identify automobiles by color and style. License plate numbers are things to look for and report. If a child does not have a pen and paper available, they can write the license number in the dirt, on a dirty car, or with a chalk rock in the cement. Again, any suspicious persons or happenings should be reported quickly to an adult they know.

When we think of child kidnapping, we think of the stranger that is parked near the school playground and entices a cute, little, blonde-haired, blue-eyed girl with candy to come near his car where he grabs her, throws her into his car and speeds away never to be seen again. In actuality, the incidences of strangers grabbing children is a very small percentage. Most children are kidnapped by persons they know, like divorcing parents, relatives, baby-sitters, and family friends. Unfortunately, if stolen by a stranger, children's life expectancy is only 24 hours. Parents

and schools should work together to report tardy children as soon as possible. Precious time can be lost in waiting too long to report a missing/late child. Parents should keep current photos of children. In the case of divorcing parents, a photo of the known abductor could be posted alongside the missing child's photo.

Playgrounds and kids' hangouts such as video arcades and candy shops are not only fun places for kids but a prime place for juvenile perpetrators to hang out. Juvenile perpetrators will study the scene and choose a victim from the group of kids. They may use games such as hide and seek or bribes to get the victim away from the crowd and to an isolated spot. Experts say that juvenile perpetrators start offending at the age of 13 or 14. It is important for adults, whether parents, store owners or law enforcement officers, to get to know neighborhood children, so that they may be more aware of the stranger kid. Adults should be cautious and wary of older children who hang out more with younger kids than kids their own age. When watching groups of children at play, it should be noted when one child is suddenly gone from the scene. They may have been coaxed away by an older child.

Juvenile perpetrators, because they aren't sophisticated in grooming techniques, use more hit and run tactics and may therefore have quite a number of victims. They may use more brutality and threats in their assaults. Reports from young children about juveniles "acting funny" should not be dismissed or minimized, but looked into carefully.

When teenagers are baby-sitting younger children the sitter should be told the rules of the house and that secrets are not kept at the home. The younger children should be reminded to tell parents if any rules are broken by the sitter and to be sure to tell parents if anything made them feel scared or uncomfortable. Children may say that something made them feel "funny".

There are three specific occasions when law enforcement officers come into contact with a child. These are in dealing with child abuse, domestic violence, and juvenile delinquency. Unfortunately, in each case the trauma has already occurred and the family may be in different stages of crisis. Therefore, great care, patience and empathy should be practiced in dealing with the children as well as other family members.

In the Texas Family Code under the term of child abuse there are three types of child abuse specified: emotional, physical and sexual as well as neglect. Emotional abuse is not very well acknowledged due to a lack of visible scars. But in most cases of physical or sexual abuse, there will also be emotional abuse. When considering the possibility of physical abuse a few things must first be understood. For instance, children in their active lives are prone to falls, scrapes and cuts. These accidental bruises appear on the child's bony areas (knees, shins, elbows and forehead). They are usually frontal injuries---children fall forward.

Non-accidental bruises appear in soft tissue areas (stomach, behind ears, buttocks). Bites, pinch marks, stretch marks and bruises from the back of the ears into the scalp (from pulling of ears), bruising around the mouth (indicating forced feeding), choke hold marks, handprints, strap mark bruises, or ligature marks (indicating tied wrists or ankles) are all signs of physical abuse. A common indicator of out-of-control spanking is a series of bruises from behind the knees up to the shoulders.

It may also help to identify bruises and their stages of healing to indicate chronic or ongoing abuse. A bruise that is red and swollen or tender is 0-2 days old. If the bruise is purple it is 3-5 days old. One that is green is 5-7 days old, a brown bruise is 7-10 days old, and a yellow bruise is 10-14 days old.

There is a difference between accidental cigarette burns and a non-accidental burn that leaves a circular scar indicating the cigarette was pressed on the body. Burns in hidden parts of the body, such as thighs, on the genital organs, or buttocks could be a strong indicator of sexual abuse occurring also. Burns from heating elements, or dry contact burns, such as stoves, irons or curling irons leave imprints. If intentional burning from water immersion has occurred, there may be a donut-shaped burn on the front of the body indicating the child curled up for protection because they could not get away. A fainter mark on the very seat of the buttocks indicates contact with the cooler porcelain and is the result of being held down in the tub.

Lacerations occur in connection with bruises while being beaten with an object. There are also indicators to look for in skeletal injuries. As mentioned before, children do fall and break bones, usually below the knee or elbow. Breaks above the knee or elbow indicate abuse as do twisted breaks which are determined through X-rays. Also, multiple breaks in different stages can be a sign of abuse. Internal injuries from blows to the body must be medically diagnosed. Organ damage can occur with very little visual evidence.

In about 60 percent of violent homes the children are also beaten. When investigating the possibility of physical abuse, there are certain aspects of family dynamics to look for. Patterns which indicate chronic or ongoing abuse such as a family physician having records of numerous "accidental" injuries on the same child. The concern or lack of concern of the parents should be considered. Do the parents discipline the child inappropriately for the child's age and development? Also, the story should match the injury. Little Johnnie would not have burns on his buttocks if he, as the parents claim, turned on the hot tub water and stepped in. If he stepped in, he would certainly jump right out.

All pertinent information should be written down and a camera should be available to take pictures of bruises, burns, or other injuries. Remember, an injured child should be handled very carefully, if at all, so as not to aggravate the injury.

Children from violent homes are likely to be more aggressive in their behavior towards others. Children ages 8-18 who have lived with years of violence are usually distrustful of adults; therefore, the investigator must use painstaking care and go slowly to regain the child's trust. Also, the investigator should be careful not to ridicule either parent. A child may talk badly about one parent, but if you agree too strongly or offer your own judgment, the child may suddenly switch sides and take up for the battering parent.

The third and possibly most damaging type of abuse to children is sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse affects the lives of countless victims yearly. It is estimated that 1 out of 3 girls and 1 out of 5 to 7 boys will be sexually assaulted by the time they are 18 years old. Over 85 percent of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone the child knows, trusts, and sometimes may even love, as is shown by the fact that most child sexual abuse happens within the family.

To learn more about this problem, we can start by looking at the sexual perpetrators. Unfortunately, perpetrators are not necessarily greasy, dirty, smelly guys in trenchcoats hanging out in dark alleyways and behind bushes. Sexual offenders cross every socio-economic, racial, and religious barrier. Though there are female sexual offenders, the percentage is very small in relation to male perpetrators. Sexual offenders can be handsome, hard-working kinds of guys. Many of the perpetrators were themselves abused as children, whether emotionally, sexually or physically.

As in the case of perpetrators outside of the realm of the family, they may be the type of person who really likes kids, and kids in turn like and trust them. They try to put themselves in contact with children and may become involved with groups such as Boy Scouts, Big Brothers, Church Youth Groups, or Little League. Sexual perpetrators spend a lot of time fantasizing about children and how they can get close to them. Once they gain children's trust they may use bribes to get children more involved, and once the child has accepted something (be it presents, going places or the extra love and attention they seek), the perpetrator will use this against them to lure them into the actions, making the child feel responsible and guilty.

Especially in cases of incest, there may be a long "grooming" period before they make their first attempt at molesting. By this time the child is confused about what is actually going on. The perpetrator may or may not tell the child to "keep a secret." Threats, like harm to a pet, "No one will believe you," or "Mom will kick you out" can be used by the perpetrator to cause a child to "keep the secret." Perpetrators of child sexual assault are sick, slick, resourceful, devious criminals.

When talking to a possible victim of child sexual abuse, there could be physical signs to make note of, such as torn, stained or bloody under-clothing; difficulty walking and/or sitting; pain or itching in the genital area; bruising or bleeding of external genitalia; venereal disease; or frequent urinary or yeast infections. But often there are not any visible signs.

There could also be some behavioral indicators such as drawings or stories with a strong bizarre sexual theme; withdrawal or chronic depression; excessive seductiveness; role reversal (overly concerned about siblings); poor self-esteem; problems relating to peers; excessive weight change; eating disorders; suicide attempts; hysteria; change of attitude at school; chronic run away; inappropriate sex play or premature understanding of sex; anxiety over closeness and/or physical contact; and use of drugs and/or alcohol.

In interviewing a child victim of sexual assault, there are some good guidelines to follow. Again, patience, care and empathy are important to gaining the trust of the child. The first and most important rule is believing the child. Children rarely lie about sexual assault. Also, you will want to acknowledge that they are not guilty, that it was not their fault, and that they are brave for talking with you about it.

Law enforcement officers should introduce themselves to the child and parents. Showing an interest in the child by commenting on their nice name or pretty clothes will help ease the tensions. Pay full attention to the child's responses. Do not get too close or touch the child. You may even want to get down on their level to talk with them. The child and parents should be told of all the steps taken during the interview. Ideally children should be interviewed alone. But in the case of younger children who may be fearful of leaving a parent, one parent should be allowed to stay but instructed to sit behind the child and make no comments.

The room in which you interview the child should be comfortable for the child, with child-size furniture and toys available for play. It may help the child to talk more freely if allowed to draw, model clay or play with toys while telling their story. Never should a child be asked to pretend. Since young children cannot be expected to keep a long attention span, the interview may have to take place over a few short sessions. To establish rapport with the child, the interviewer must be patient and gradually steer the child back to the pertinent subject if he or she strays off the subject.

Since abused children are often uncomfortable with physical contact, the interviewer should not become overly physical with the child. The interviewer may touch the child's hand to regain attention, pat his or her back for encouragement, and ask for permission to hug a child or hold a hand for reassurance. The information given by the child should be received in a non-blaming, non-judgmental way. All information given by the child should be repeated back to them in the same vocabulary they used. You may want to ask for clarification of a term the child used, especially in terms of body identification. The child may point to his or her own body for clarification.

The questions "Who", "What", "Where" and "When" should be asked in open-ended fashion. Open-ended questions produce more information than a simple yes or no and minimize leading questions. Asking a child "How

did you feel?" will obtain more information than "Were you scared?". Avoid asking "Why" questions. Children are usually asked "Why" when they're in trouble, and it may lead to them feeling defensive.

It is important when dealing with children to remember the child's appropriate age development and communication level. For instance, a preschooler will not be able to give a specific time or chronological order of abuse. Children may be able to relate the incidences to whether they were in school at that time, what season of the year it was, or maybe a TV show that was on at the time of the abuse.

In closing the interview, the child should be praised for the hard work done during the interview and told how strong and brave he or she was to talk with you. You should not only summarize for the child your perceptions of the interview, but ask the child for any additional information or further questions. You may tell the child the next steps you will be taking and thank him or her for helping you.

Although boys report sexual abuse far less frequently than girls do, we know that the problem affects boys too, and may even be of a higher incidence than physical abuse. This happens because of a couple of reasons. One is that the families of male victims deem the reporting and investigation more traumatic than the actual instance of the abuse. Some studies show the perpetrator in relation to the male victim may be more outside the realm of the family and therefore the child is protected by the parents from a recurring incidence.

Secondly, fear of disclosure and punishment, shame, guilt and the label of "homosexual," are deterrents to males reporting abuse, especially adolescent males. In fact, most child molesters do have heterosexual relationships and are not homosexual. It is important to get counseling for all child victims, especially male victims, since male children have an increased potential of becoming adult perpetrators.

Adolescents, with surging hormones, fragmented identities, those between the innocence of childhood and responsibility of adulthood, are a unique group of individuals to deal with as "child" victims. They receive the status of "child" due only to their chronological age. Besides abuses already mentioned such as kidnapping, neglect, and physical, sexual and emotional abuse, law enforcement officers come into contact with adolescents most frequently in cases of delinquent behavior and status offenses. Delinquent behaviors consist of more serious crimes such as theft, burglary, rape, assault and murder. All of these types of crimes create victims.

Status offenses are victimless. Status offenses are crimes, yet would not be considered "illegal" if committed by an adult. These offenses include truancy, running away, consensual sexual behavior, smoking, drinking, curfew violation and disobeying authority. And yet the status offenders, not the juvenile delinquents, are more likely to appear in

court, become incarcerated and stay incarcerated longer. Being incarcerated with more serious criminals may subject them to further victimization, as well as enable them to learn more dangerous street skills.

While looking at the problem of juvenile delinquency, we must investigate the source and the solution. Statistics show that these children are running away from abusive families only to be picked up, locked up and eventually put back in the abusive home. There are incidences where, because of the child's age and their ability "to run," they fall through the cracks of the system. Those children that are taken over by the state are often placed in one home after another, and treatment is neglected. Children often run away and get lost in the "street" system of stealing, drugs, prostitution, child pornography, and even suicide. These street kids rarely attend school, and, because of their lack of learning productive life skills, turn out to be the adult criminals of tomorrow.

Street kids grow in numbers daily. At the Covenant House in New York City over 1,000 runaways per month are housed. This does not count those youths who don't make it that far (those that are killed or overdose or commit suicide). Suicide in teens is the second leading cause of death in this age group. If during an interview a teen hints at or makes remarks about suicide, this should be taken seriously. Showing concern, talking frankly, exploring situations such as home environment and friends and seeking professional help could be the difference between life and death of a troubled teen.

Treating juveniles as liars, thieves, and criminals prepares them for hopelessness, cynicism and a worthless future. Treating them with compassion and a degree of respect along with treatment for their abuse may mean the difference between a life leading nowhere and a positive, productive life.

In essence, the way child victims are handled, supported and cared for will help or hinder them for the rest of their lives. The key to our successful future will be in our healthy, happy children of today. Together we can help our children be safe, strong, and free.

ENDNOTES

(1) Office of Justice Assistance, Research, and Statistics, How to Protect Children (U.S. Department of Justice).

Cidneye Godkin is the Coordinator for the Child Assault Prevention Project of the Family Crisis Center in Bastrop, Texas.

Cidneye helped start the Bastrop County Women's Shelter eight years ago when it was a totally volunteer organization. Homes such as Cidneye's were opened up for battered women and children. The first couple of families that stayed at her home were there because of child sexual assault.

As the Shelter grew Cidneye was hired as the Coordinator for the Child Assault Prevention Project. The Family Crisis Center serves Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee Counties.

Cidneye talks to over 5,000 children a year, teaching them prevention skills and how to deal with such issues as latchkey children, bullies, domestic violence, death and child sexual assault. She is the mother of four children.

Cidneye believes in speaking out for those too little or too young to speak for themselves. She believes all children, everywhere should be safe, strong, and free.

CHAPTER 4

HOW TO SPOT SUICIDAL DANGER SIGNALS

By
Robert Beierle

Suicide is the intentional taking of one's life, and has been part of human behavior since prehistory. Many ancient writings, including the Bible, the Koran and other texts, mention suicide. The act of self-destruction represents an attack on some of our most deeply held presumptions that life is to be loved and death feared.

The challenge that suicide presents to our basic values and its highly dramatic aspects, have caused it to remain a subject of intense mystery and concern. Only in the second half of the twentieth century has there been a concerted effort to study suicide and its prevention scientifically and humanely. That effort has led to the creation of a new cross-disciplinary field, suicidology.

In order to spot suicidal danger signals, one needs to understand suicidal behavior. A distinction can be made between direct destructive behavior and indirect, self-destructive behavior. Direct destructive behavior usually includes three distinctly different groups of phenomena: suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts, and suicides. Indirect self-destructive behavior is characterized by taking a life-threatening risk without an intention of dying, and is generally repeated unconsciously in such a way that the consequences are likely to be destructive to the individual before long. This latter behavior covers a wide variety of phenomena: excessive drinking and drug use, heavy smoking, overeating, neglect of one's health, self-mutilation, poly-surgical addiction, hunger strikes, criminal behavior, and deviant traffic behavior.

A Mr. Otto in 1964 stated "Judging from the observations made on adults, there is reason to believe that a specific pre-suicidal syndrome does not exist." However, several other investigators presented numerous symptoms. Perlstein in 1966 stated that of the serious suicide attempts, symptoms were present in over 70 percent of the cases. "The teenager who has reached the point of seriously considering suicide never fails to send that warning signal," stated Dr. Giffin in 1982. Parents, teachers, relatives, caregivers, and others in adolescents' lives must realize that these symptoms are a sign that help is needed. These symptoms are warning signals to potential suicidal behavior. They are a "cry for help." The following suicidal symptoms were presented by Perlstein in 1966.

"The sleep disturbance may be insomnia or a tendency to excessive sleep. The eating disturbance often involves increased eating, increased tendency to take alcoholic beverages, increased smoking or increased intake of sweets, often reach addictive proportions; but in other instances there is a loss of appetite and a decreased

intake of food. Somatic symptoms include headache and pains of any type; loss of strength, stomach complaints, heart pains, menstrual complaints, and skin problems."

Hersh in 1975 reported that a suicidal college student typically exhibits the following signals:

"A decrease in verbal communication combined with an increase in isolation (more isolation than usual for that individual); talk about giving away or actually giving away prized possessions; changes in the sleep cycle, insomnia or sudden changes in the total amount of sleeping, especially during the day; active tensions with the family, especially if there is evidence that psychological or physical abuse existed in that family."

Faigel in 1966 stated that predicting the first suicide attempt was difficult. However, he listed the following prodromal clues: attempts at suicide, accident proneness, recent death in the family, recent disruption of the family, repressed anger, deflated self-image, sex anxieties, and depression.

Jacobziner in 1965 cited the following prodromal clues: "change in personality or behavior, agitation, irritability, anxiety, depression, anorexia, insomnia, and frequent outbursts of temper."

Fredrick in 1976, another investigator, stated: "Overt behavioral clues include additions such as purchasing a rope, guns, or pills. Covert behavioral clues are loss of appetite, loss of weight, insomnia, disturbed sleep patterns, fatigue or loss of energy, isolated behavior, changes in mood, and increased irritability. Signs of deterioration are often revealed by a sudden change of behavior, which may not be flagrantly rebellious enough to include rule breaking and legal violations."

O'Roack in 1982 mentioned many of the same prodromal clues as other investigators; she also urged teachers to watch for signs of suicide in creative writing and art. She stated that frequently students who are suicidal "become preoccupied with the notion of death in music, art, the poetry or journals they write."

Duncan in 1977 pointed out that most suicide attempters have visited a physician with functional complaints in the months prior to the suicide attempt. In 1978, Hyde and Forsyth's research also indicated that between 60 and 70 percent of the people who commit suicide have seen a medical doctor in the six months prior to their suicide, and Klagsbrun in 1976 reported from his investigations that 75 percent see a medical doctor within a month or two before they commit suicide. The problem is, however, that they conceal their suicidal intent from the physician and the physician either does not recognize the clues or does not attend to them.

The prodromal clues of suicide can be summarized as follows: (1) suicide threat or similar statement, (2) previous attempt, (3) depression, (4) sudden change in behavior or personality, (5) final arrangements, such as giving away treasured personal possessions, and (6) isolation. If these prodromal clues go unnoticed, the cries for help generally continue to get louder and louder. Many have died from self-inflicted injuries because their cries for help were not heard or those who heard did not respond.

In the late 1950s the federal government established the Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Center as a demonstration project. Through its publications and training institutes, this project became the major stimulus to a movement that spread throughout the United States over the next several decades. More than two hundred such prevention centers have been established, and they have developed various means of dealing with potential suicides, including specialized hot lines and other forms of telephone counseling. A further outgrowth of the suicide prevention movement has been the establishment of the American Association of Suicidology which develops standards for suicide prevention centers and provides scholarly information on suicide and its prevention in its journal, Suicide and Life-threatening Behavior.

The suicide prevention or crisis center is an outstanding example of a community mental health program. Typically, the center has a large cadre of unpaid volunteer workers and a small paid administrative staff. Centers are open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and charge no fees for their telephone counseling services. Although they normally act as information and referral services, they also make "rescues" in life-and-death situations, providing a front-line psychiatric emergency service at a very reasonable cost to the community. Research consistently shows that only a small fraction of the people who call the centers are dangerously suicidal. However, many lonely and disturbed persons use the service, and to that extent the centers may be preventing future suicides among this group.

Group therapy, one of the more innovative and rewarding prevention approaches, has been the development of therapy groups for suicidal and depressed persons. Since these people tend to experience feelings of alienation and loneliness, group orientation is especially important for them. By virtue of its social nature, group therapy works to alleviate these feelings and, moreover, offers social interactions and interpersonal relationships that often carry over outside the group sessions. In addition to individual and small-group approaches, suicide can be prevented through environmental modification, or environmental risk reduction, such as gun control.

More than half of the suicides occurring each year are accomplished with firearms. There is considerable evidence that high rates of gun ownership are directly connected to high rates of gun violence of all types, including accidental, homicidal, and suicidal injuries and deaths. For a person experiencing a severe but temporary depression, a loaded gun in the house is often an invitation to disaster.

Another effective measure that could have life-saving consequences is substance control. Tighter regulation of the manufacture, prescription and dispensation of such potentially lethal agents as barbiturates is a means of reducing suicides. For many purposes, drugs with less serious abuse potential could be substituted. Another approach to the problem of impulsive overdosing is the use of blister pads, which require single tablets or capsules to be punched out individually, allowing more time for emotions to cool or for rescuers to intervene.

Reducing opportunities for suicide is another form of environmental risk reduction. One of the nation's most famous suicide landmarks is San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, the site of more suicides than any other place in the world. Proposals have been made to install eight foot barriers to replace the bridge's present three and a half foot railings. Similar hardware approaches have been used successfully on the Empire State Building, the Arroyo Seco Bridge in Pasadena, and the Eiffel Tower.

Opposition to such barriers is based on the common sense argument that, "they'll just go someplace else." However, this argument is contradicted by clinical experience. Suicidal impulses are frequently transient and directly related to an acutely stressful situation. If the person can weather the crisis, the danger passes, often never to return.

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Robert Beierle is an Investigator and Juvenile Officer with the Burnet County Sheriff's Department. Active in the community he presents crime prevention programs to the general public and is coordinator for Crime Stoppers of Burnet County.

He served in the United States Marine Corps and is a Vietnam Veteran. He has spent 13 years in the oil fields, with seven years spent as manager of inventory control, warehouse, and traffic manager.

Beierle considers himself a very versatile and outspoken person. He enjoys talking with people and considers young people our greatest asset. He and his wife, Alice, and two boys have lived in the Highland Lakes area since 1982.

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CHAPTER 5

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

By
Richard Moree

Are you in the habit of inviting burglars into your home? Although many citizens do not realize it, burglars often have an "open invitation" into homes. Home security and protection begins with the home owner eliminating himself from being an accomplice to the burglar. Reducing this element can reduce the estimated \$400 million lost annually in stolen goods. This chapter will attempt to assist you in implementing measures to make your home more secure from uninvited intruders. Hopefully, this information will provide you with a "crime prevention awareness."

Awareness is a very important and necessary ingredient in any crime prevention effort. Successful crime prevention and home protection does not allow apathy, neither on the part of citizens nor the law enforcement community. By following the suggestions in this chapter, you should be able to decrease your chances of becoming a burglary victim.

Most burglars are amateurs and will look for easy targets such as unlocked or open doors or windows, or areas around the home which will permit the burglar easy concealment from neighbors or passing motorists. Would-be burglars also look for homes which appear unoccupied or unprotected. To develop a "crime prevention awareness" attitude, you can begin by conducting a security survey of your home. When conducting the survey, keep in mind these security suggestions:

- Solid core or metal-clad doors should be used for all exterior doors.
- Door frames should be solid and properly attached to the house structure.
- Exterior doors with hinges on the outside are not secure. Non-removable hinges are available commercially.
- All exterior doors should have securely mounted dead bolts or rimlocks. the dead bolt should have a minimum one-inch throw.
- If the door secured by the dead bolt lock has breakable glass within 40 inches of the lock, the lock must be key operated from both sides unless prohibited by life safety codes.

Starting on the outside of your home, check the following points and ask yourself these questions:

- Are entrances to your home well-lighted?

- Are all doors and windows unobstructed by trees and shrubs?
- Are all entrances always locked, including the garage area and inside doors?
- Are all vents, crawl spaces, or skylights protected?
- Are the exterior doors, including the garage, capable of withstanding excessive force?
- Are sliding doors and windows secured with auxiliary locking devices?
- Are sliding doors and windows secured against being lifted out of their frames?
- Are strike plates and door frames capable of withstanding excessive force?
- Are double-hung windows secured with an extra lock or pin?

If you answer "no" to any of the questions, measures should be taken to correct problems or weaknesses. Crime Prevention Specialists suggest following these recommended qualities in a dead bolt lock:

- Minimum five pin tumbler.
- Horizontal bolt-type locks should have case-hardened, minimum 1" bolt throw. Vertical bolt type lock interlocks with the strike plate to delay against prying attacks.
- The longest screws practical should be used when mounting any security hardware to the interior backside of the door or jamb.
- The exterior cylinder guard should have sufficient bevel to repel against gripping attack.
- The exterior cylinder guard should be of heavy construction to repel against hammer attacks.
- Any screw that is visible in the exterior face of the lock should be installed to protect against unauthorized removal.

Your local law enforcement agency can assist you with the home security survey and can make suggestions or recommendations for better securing your home from burglars.

Once you have taken measures to better secure the outside of your home, attention should be directed to other crime prevention methods that will broaden the overall security of your home. Consider the following suggestions:

- Open garage doors will attract burglars. You should develop a habit of keeping garage doors closed and locked. Burglars are attracted to open garages with no car visible but with bicycles, tools, or mowers providing an opportunity for the burglar.
- Your home should maintain an occupied look. Burglars usually seek out unoccupied homes. When away from home, leave a radio playing and a few lights on inside the home. Automatic timers can be used to vary the pattern. Burglars do not like noise or light.
- Advise family members to not give out too much information over the telephone. Burglars often call ahead to learn if anyone is home or when the residents might return.
- Do not open your door to strangers. A wide-angle door viewer with a minimum of 190 degree angle installed in your front door will allow you to see who is outside without opening the door.
- Don't leave notes outside your home announcing your absence.
- Don't leave an extra key hidden outside your home. Leave one with a trusted neighbor instead.
- Don't leave your house keys with your car keys when you leave your car at a parking lot, or at a garage for repairs.
- Don't keep large sums of cash or easily stolen valuables unprotected in your home.

Home security methods should become a routine habit for you. Other ideas to consider are:

- If you are going to be out of town for awhile, either stop deliveries such as newspapers and mail or have a neighbor or friend pick up the items daily. Do not allow deliveries to stack up on the driveway or lawn. This is an open invitation to burglars.

Two other crime prevention programs have proven effective in reducing home burglaries.

(1) Operation Identification is a citizen's burglary prevention program. The Operation Identification Program consists of two parts. First, engrave your valuables with your driver's license number. Marked property can be traced and identified. It is very important to use your driver's license number, as this is the method of identification and tracking utilized by law enforcement agencies. After having marked your property, display an Operation Identification sticker on your window or door which

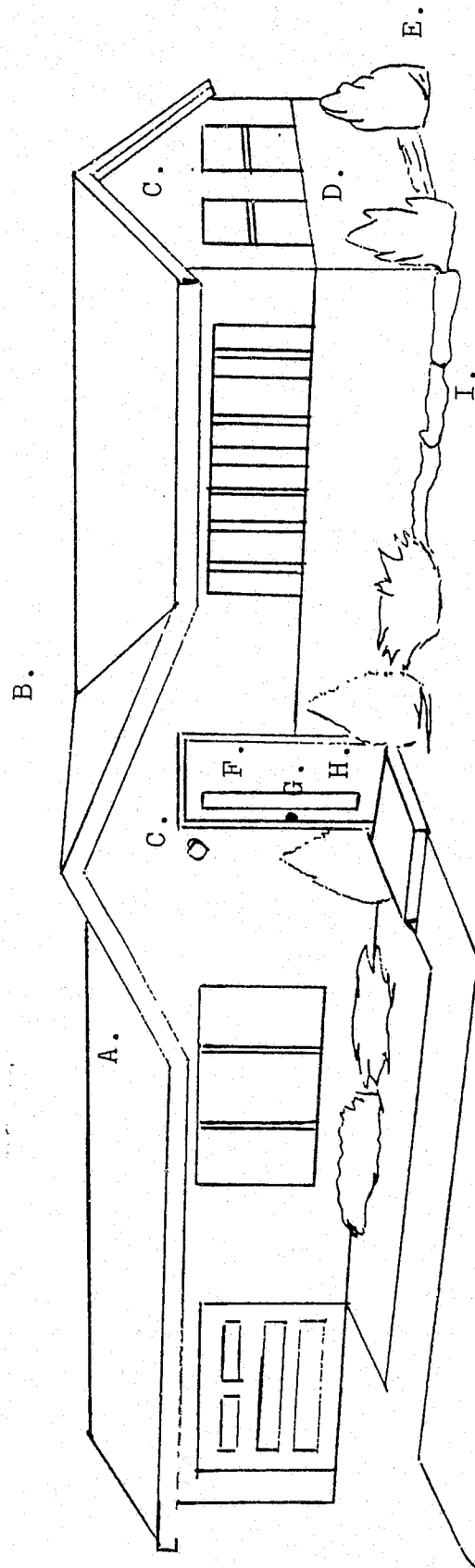
will warn would-be burglars that your property has been marked. It is difficult for a burglar to dispose of marked property. Most law enforcement agencies are active with the Operation Identification Program and have electric engraving tools to loan to citizens desiring to mark their property.

(2) Another effective program which provides the home owner with added security is the Neighborhood Watch Program. The Neighborhood Watch Program involves neighbors helping neighbors. Concerned neighbors can reduce crime and can be very effective in keeping the burglar out of their neighborhood. Both the Neighborhood Watch Program and Operation Identification are covered more in-depth in other chapters of this text. To conclude this chapter, a Checklist For Home Security has been included. Points to consider on the checklist are listed below:

- (a) Alarms. Many types of alarm systems are available to the home owner. Alarm systems can be very helpful in protecting the home. Your local law enforcement agency should be able to provide you with information pertaining to alarm systems and alarm companies in your area.
- (b) Sliding patio doors. This type of door can be protected by simple but effective locking devices which require manipulation from the inside.
- (c) Exterior flood lights. Front and rear lighting as well as interior timed lighting devices are effective measures used to deter burglars.
- (d) Screening material can be used effectively on window wells or on framing.
- (e) Shrubs. Should be kept low enough so as not to block possible points of entry or to conceal a potential burglar.
- (f) Door windows. Can be protected by a heavy screen or be made of burglary resistant glazing materials to prevent access to door locks.
- (g) Door locks. Quality dead bolt locks having a minimum 1-inch extension are recommended. Exterior cylinder guards should be beveled and of heavy construction.
- (h) Doors. Should be solid core wood doors with rugged frames that can not be spread apart with a pry bar.
- (i) Basement windows. Often are overlooked by homeowners. Basement windows should be secured to prevent forcing and the window locks should not be vulnerable to attack if the glass is broken.

Refer to drawing on the following page for Checklist points.

A CHECKLIST FOR HOME SECURITY



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Richard Moree is Chief of Police, Lake LBJ Municipal Utility District, Horseshoe Bay, Texas. He has previously worked for both the Texas Highway Department's Travel & Information Division and the Information & Education Division of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

After nearly ten years in the newspaper and freelance photojournalism business, Moree became involved with law enforcement through his employment as a juvenile probation officer with the 33rd Judicial District. He then worked with the Burnet County Sheriff's Department. He has been in crime prevention for several years and has attended the basic eighty-hour crime prevention school, the rural crime prevention school, and numerous other schools.

As Chief of Police at Horseshoe Bay, he has helped develop active Neighborhood Watch Programs. He is very active in presenting crime prevention programs to Horseshoe Bay citizens.

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CHAPTER 6

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR RURAL HOMESTEAD

By
Con Keirse

In the rural areas of the country, crimes against property are the most prevalent, comprising approximately 90 percent of all crimes reported in rural areas. Crimes against the person, such as rape and assaultive offenses, are not too frequent in the country. This chapter will not deal with the specifics of the many recommended security devices, locking hardware and preventive measures of home security, as other chapters in this book go into that detail. But, some of the more easily applied measures will be recommended for the rural type setting.

Property crimes are vandalism, theft or burglary, auto theft, or arson. Theft is the taking of property of another without consent and no use of force. Burglary is entering a building or place and taking property without the owner's consent or with the purpose of committing an assault or a felony. Burglary and theft are the two crimes with which most citizens are concerned. There are large dollar amounts of loss in these crimes and recovered property is approximately only 15 percent. Of all burglaries reported, one out of six is in a rural area. Property crimes are mostly crimes of opportunity. Crime prevention, in concept, has the basic premise of reducing the opportunity for someone to commit these offenses. If more security, more alarms and other means are employed to make it difficult for someone to take property or break into a building, opportunity is reduced.

Law enforcement is certainly limited in the amount of protection that can be afforded each citizen; therefore, it is necessary that crime prevention, generally, and personal property protection, especially, are practiced by each citizen. Each little measure taken to deter thieves and burglars may mean the difference of being victimized or not. If it is made more difficult to break in or get access to stealable goods, the thief may move on to an easier target. Crime is much like the path of electricity, it takes the path of least resistance. Be aware of what can happen to your property through vandalism or theft. By awareness, appropriate measures may be taken to help prevent loss. Don't be complacent. It can happen to you.

There are many different types of people committing the rural crimes. Many are casual or occasional thieves, mostly acting on impulse or temptation. Remove temptation by keeping items from view, if possible. Tools and lawnmowers are often left out. Bicycles, toys and pets are vulnerable if not protected. Most auto thefts are those of cars with keys left in them. Don't invite crime. Use common sense and logic in developing your own methods of better securing your property. Some thefts are done by children and juveniles for many reasons as set out above.

But most of the offenses are perpetrated by professional criminals. Many of these have been to the penitentiary before. Most criminals arrested for burglaries have committed many, and usually numerous offenses are cleared by the arrest of just one or two individuals. These types of burglars have their routines down pat. They do not spend much time at the place, and they do not hang around the area long after committing a burglary. Many come out of the city to prey on the rural areas, then return to the city to dispose of their loot. Often these items are taken to pawn shops, sold to individuals on the street, or traded to "dope houses" for drugs of some kind.

This type of offender will go to a rural home, honk the horn, make noise and try to arouse anyone that might be around. They do not want to be interrupted or surprised, so they need to see if anyone is there. If someone comes out, they may ask some kind of question like "Do you have any wood for sale or to cut?" or "Do the Smiths live here?". If no one is at home, they can make all kinds of noise breaking in and only take a few minutes taking most of the valuable items in the house.

Absentee property owners having tools, equipment and livestock in the country, but living in town, are also frequent targets of thefts. Most people do not take good measures to secure things in this setting. In many cases, just simply storing or parking equipment out of sight of the road, placing items in barns or garages, locking doors, and having strong chains and locks on gates will be sufficient deterrents to prevent loss. You can be as secure as the amount of effort and money spent on preventive measures and security equipment. Often, people in the rural areas do not report some of the crimes against them, believing nothing can be done. This is illogical reasoning. Often these cases tie in with some other case, maybe needing just that information to piece them all together. Many times stolen property is recovered, but no report can be found to ascertain the owner or where the crime was committed. Report all incidents to your local law enforcement agency. This is important information for many reasons. Marking valuables helps to determine the owner when property is recovered.

Establish a Neighborhood Watch Group with your neighbors. Contact the local law enforcement agency in this regard. Most will assist in forming these groups and should support this effort by attending meetings and disseminating information. This idea is mainly that of watching out for your neighbor as he watches out for you. There are many variations of this concept, but they are effective. Mark your goods, everything that you can, with your Texas driver's license number. This number can be identified by police. Your social security number is not a good mark, as it is not easily identifiable for police. Engrave, stamp, or etch on your items. Many items are recovered simply because they have been marked and the owner has been located, oftentimes resulting in an arrest of the thief.

In the country it is more important to use stronger chains and locks on doors, gates or anything you may tie down. Because noise level does not restrict their activity, thieves can use larger tools in breaking in. Secure the outer perimeters (gates, fences, hedges or other barriers) of the property as the first line of protection. Lock all gates with strong chains and locks. Fence property, large areas or small. The better and taller the fence, the better protection it will provide. The outlying area between the property boundaries and the home or working area is hard to protect. But minimize risks by removing tools or equipment, or concealing them from plain sight. If living on the place, try to maintain a clear path of vision from house to place where items are parked or stored. This includes watching over your livestock. Do not have pens or loading chutes near roads, making it easy for stock thieves to load the animals.

The central area of the place is the work area near the house or barns. Keep tools and equipment in sheds, doors locked, area well-lit, and landscape trimmed for good vision, chaining appropriate items, marking property and installing alarms if feasible. The area around the home and main buildings is the most important area of concern for security. This is where better locks, burglar alarms, lights, fences and dogs may be used, among other measures. A good high yard fence with a dog is very effective in burglary prevention. Inexpensive audible alarms either in the house or yard are recommended. Some of these are motion sensitive alarms, are not too expensive, and can trigger off sirens, lights, or dial the local police agency with a recording, informing of an intruder. Timers can be used to turn on lamps, radios or other devices to give the impression that someone is at home.

When away for an extended time, don't advertise that you are gone. Do not leave mail accumulating in your mailbox, or newspapers collecting in your driveway. Notes on doors or gates are indications to thieves that you are gone, so avoid leaving notes. Many local law enforcement agencies have crime prevention units or provide home security surveys for individual home owners. Call and check for this service. You may receive many suggestions for better securing your premises.

Remember, you can do the most by being aware and innovative in your personal security. Above all, maintain your efforts and methods of prevention in effect at all times, not on a part-time basis; because it only takes one time to experience a loss.

Con Keirse is the Sheriff of Bastrop County, Texas. He is a retired Police Captain of the Austin Police Department, having served that agency 27 years. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Police Science and Law Enforcement from Sam Houston State University of Huntsville, Texas, and an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Austin Community College, Austin, Texas.

Sheriff Keirse served over five years in active military service, both in the Air Force and Army. In his police experience, he has commanded the following divisions: Patrol, Criminal, Community Service, Personnel and Training, and Forensic Sciences.

Sheriff Keirse lives in Red Rock, Texas on his small ranch with his wife of thirty-eight years, Lillie Hemphill Keirse. There they enjoy their children and grandchildren, and raising cattle and horses.

Sheriff Keirse has attended both the basic Crime Prevention School and the advanced school of Texas Crime Prevention Institute from Southwest Texas State University. Having been in police work for many years, being crime prevention trained as well as living most of his fifty-eight years in rural areas, he has some practical observations of crime deterrents for those outside of urban areas.

CHAPTER 7

HOW TO CONDUCT A HOME SECURITY SURVEY

By
Weldon E. Countryman

The security survey is the primary tool used in crime prevention to recognize, appraise and anticipate loss potential.

A security survey is an in-depth, on-site examination of a physical facility and its surrounding property. The survey is conducted to determine a facility's security status; to identify deficiencies or security risks; to define the protection needed; and, to make recommendations to minimize criminal opportunity.

An important factor in understanding the security survey is that it must be considered as an ongoing process. As a starting point, eight steps must be used in carrying out the actual survey. These are as follows:

- (1) The overall environment must be analyzed.
- (2) The general vulnerability of the premises must be defined.
- (3) The specific points of vulnerability must be defined.
- (4) Specific security procedures must be recommended.
- (5) Recommendations must include specific remedial hardware at a minimum level.
- (6) Implementation of the recommendations must be urged.
- (7) Follow-up must be provided to see if recommendations have been implemented.
- (8) Crime statistics must be kept to evaluate the effect of the survey.

The essence of this process is continued involvement and participation. It must be stressed that once a crime prevention survey has been completed, the job is not finished. In fact, if you assume this posture, you may later learn that the recommendations were not implemented and that your work was done in vain.

To be a good crime prevention surveyor you need to be part investigator. You must understand the criminal's method of operation and the limitations of standard security devices. In addition, you must be knowledgeable about the type of security hardware necessary to provide various degrees of protection.

Because your entire community cannot be surveyed, it is important to develop a plan and priorities for the surveys. For example, a first step might identify areas that have suffered above average incidences of burglary. Next, merchants and residents in the target areas should be notified well in advance that the surveys will be offered. The notification should also include instructions on how to prepare for the survey, the date and time of the visit and a detailed explanation of the security service that will be offered. The general announcement should also indicate your approach to conducting the survey. That is, if you intend to survey a particular part of the community and approach each owner separately, this should be pointed out. In addition, if the reason for selecting a particular target area to be surveyed is based on a rash of crimes in that area, and if the survey technique will be used as a follow-up as well as a protective measure, these facts should also be pointed out to all those concerned.

When you arrive at a survey site, the first step is to assess the environment of a residence to determine why it might be selected by a criminal as a crime target. In approaching this question three features of the site should be investigated: (1) ready access to the property or facility; (2) an opportunity to enter the premises and to remove the desired goods; (3) and a secure and convenient escape route. Bearing these features in mind as you survey the site, you should be aware of the following:

- The amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic moving back and forth in front of the site;
- The existence of pathways and short streets where a criminal could park his car and remain generally unobserved;
- The degree to which either adults or children pay attention to your presence;
- The possibilities that exist to approach the site from the rear without being observed, such as through woods or a drainage ditch covered with brush;
- The fencing around the site;
- The type of street lighting available in the area;
- The prevalence of dogs in the community for purposes of security or as pets; and,
- The general socio-economic characteristics of the neighborhood.

By taking note of these features, it will be easier to visualize the thought process a criminal would use in approaching the site. As a result, the security measures you recommend will be practical and will be easier to explain to the resident.

Just as you will assess the general environment of a survey site, it will be helpful to take note of features on the exterior of a survey site that appear to make a facility vulnerable to criminal victimization. Although many of these seem basic, a brief review is presented to serve as a working checklist. For example, does a home clearly appear unoccupied:

- Are the windows shut and shades drawn?
- Is mail collecting in the mailbox or are newspapers collecting at the front door?
- Is the lawn in desperate need of mowing?

Assessment of these indicators will equip you to have a more thorough understanding of security factors that may attract potential criminals. You can then be more precise and responsive with your security recommendations. All items should be marked for identification purposes and serial numbers be recorded and kept in a safe place.

The circumstances surrounding each security survey will be unique and different from all others. The Texas Crime Prevention Institute encourages crime prevention practitioners to conduct surveys and prepare reports in a straightforward manner that allows for a clear understanding of findings and recommendations. In short, the institute suggests that surveys include at least six sections, as follows:

- (1) Introduction
- (2) Identification of Site
- (3) Perimeter Barriers
- (4) Exterior Barriers
- (5) Internal Controls
- (6) Conclusion

SURVEY OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

- A. Date of Survey
- B. Site Information
 1. Address
 2. City/County, State
 3. Telephone

SURVEY OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION (CONTINUED)

- C. Contact Person
- D. Time Factor
 - 1. Time Survey Started
 - 2. Time Survey Ended
- E. Name of Surveyor (also include the name of anyone accompanying surveyor)

IDENTIFICATION OF SITE

- A. External Environment
 - 1. Nearby traveled streets
 - 2. Surrounding area that would discourage/encourage crime
 - a) Private residences
 - b) Businesses (late hour)
 - c) Wooded areas
 - d) Open fields
 - e) Socio-economics of surrounding community
- B. Dimensions of Building
- C. Exterior Parking

PERIMETER BARRIERS

- A. Exterior Lighting (east, west, north, south)
 - 1. Existing exterior lighting
 - 2. Recommendations
- B. Fences, Shrubs, or Natural Barriers (east, west, north, south)
 - 1. Existing fences and breast work
 - 2. Recommendations
- C. Alarms
- D. Other

EXTERIOR BARRIERS

- A. Doors (east, west, north, south)
 - 1. Solid/hollow Core
 - 2. Locks
 - 3. Hinges
 - 4. Viewer
 - 5. Frame

SURVEY OUTLINE

EXTERIOR BARRIERS (CONTINUED)

6. Garage door
 7. Door - garage to house
 8. Glass door
 9. Other
 10. Recommendations
- B. Windows (east, west, north, south)
1. Locks
 2. Pinned
 3. Other
 4. Recommendations
- C. Walls (east, west, north, south)
1. Composition
 2. Vents and ducts
 3. Fire escapes
 4. Other
 5. Recommendations
- D. Roof
1. Composition
 2. Vents and ducts
 3. Skylight
 4. Other
 5. Recommendations
- E. Floor
1. Concrete foundation
 2. Post/lift foundation
 3. Other
 4. Recommendations
- F. Other Entrance/exit to Interior of Building
- G. Outside Storage Areas

INTERNAL CONTROLS

- A. Interior Doors
- B. Interior Locks
- C. Alarm Systems
- D. Safe
- E. Operation Identification
- F. Key Control
- G. High Valued Items

SURVEY OUTLINE

CONCLUSION

Adherence to the recommendations presented here will not positively prevent loss of property; however, it will reduce the security risk of a break-in.

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Officer Countryman, age 35, was born in Houston, Texas, where he and his wife and two children lived before moving to Lago Vista.

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CHAPTER 8

HOW TO INVENTORY YOUR ASSETS

By
Jim Minton

Having been connected with the military, as well as being employed by one of the largest companies in the world, I have formed a personal opinion and definition of the word or concept of "Inventory". It wasn't all that favorable, but now that I have my own home and business I can see the necessity of a good inventory. If we can understand that an inventory is intended to protect, and not punish, and that it can be somewhat creative and fun, perhaps some of us will actually complete and maintain one. Let's see if I can help you!

I would like to start with a few definitions from Webster's New Compact Dictionary:

- (1) Lose (Loss) = fail to keep, misplace, act or instance of losing, something lost, to have a loss.
Noun: Loser
- (2) Prevent (Prevention) = stop, hinder.
Adjective: preventative
- (3) Assume = suppose without knowing, taking upon oneself (also) taking from another.
- (4) Inventory = precise list, stock of goods, make an inventory of.

If we put these few words and their meanings together, the entire article could be shortened as to context into one sentence: make a precise list of your stock of goods to stop or hinder others from causing you a loss. The inflection here seems to be to prevent loss from acts of others, or more simply stated: theft, burglary, or the dishonest acts of others. Obviously, there is another word defined by Webster that we will need to address in this article--Consume: destroy, as by fire.

There is an old saying that goes like this, "the hardest part is just getting started". This can apply to the task of inventory, but I don't think this is completely accurate. I believe the hardest part is to finish an inventory and even harder is the task of keeping one up-to-date.

It really isn't that difficult if we "build an inventory", rather than just take an inventory. But if it is so easy, then why doesn't everyone have an inventory? My answer to this question is that if it could be purchased or put on a plastic charge card, we would all have one. Since we can't buy one this way, unless we can afford to hire one done, we will need to do our own. We need a "personal inventory" rather than a "generic inventory".

The reason is that in case of a loss, who has to come up with an inventory for the police, and/or the insurance company? --We do! If we don't understand our own inventory, how on earth can we use it effectively? It's like one's own filing system. No one else can or probably wants to know the details of our system. As long as we know it, it is a perfect system. Each person or household needs to decide on a method or system of inventory that best suits them personally, and use it. Yes, a system can and should be changed as needs, efficiencies, and understanding of purpose change. Your first inventory, if ever finished, will be a work of art. But, I can almost assure you, that once you finish your masterpiece, you won't want to ever see, or do another. This is normal, but it's as wrong as ketchup and jelly in a good homemade soup.

What we want is a simple and easy-to-use, easy-to-adjust, somewhat fun, and hopefully a convenient and well-used list, picture, or description of our belongings. Here are a few examples of the types of inventories I have seen most often:

- (1) Handwritten description, taken or developed by a person or persons by going from room-to-room.
- (2) Photographs, taken of all expensive items that have monetary or sentimental value.
- (3) Shipping or moving van lists by categories or by room.
- (4) Video camera tapes, often narrated by Dad.
- (5) Box, folder, envelope, sack full of receipts for items, possibly warranty cards or maybe even bills of sales.
- (6) A partial list began, and probably not finished, due to time restraints placed on free time.
- (7) Most common is the handwritten list, compiled by all household members after a fire or burglary.

Sadly, this is the narrative of many claims persons who have the unpleasant duty of paying people for the loss or losses of everything they used to own. The problem is that they often do not know what they owned. An insurance policy, or an insurance company, is often evaluated as good or bad as we the consumers view them, "after a loss". From experience, it reminds me that adjusting losses "after a loss", and without a detailed inventory of some type, usually resulted in a negative evaluation of the claims person, insurance company and, of course, the agent.

Here are a few suggestions on how to complete an effective inventory.

- (1) Video tape/video camera - Increasing numbers of households have access to video cameras. This is an excellent source of information after a loss. It will show the existence, condition, and

often description (brand, size, color, texture, etc.) of an item. Those often forgotten items are "picked up" by the camera and will remind us of other valuables destroyed by a peril. This can easily be done by walking through our residence and talking about items we see. Open drawers, open doors, go into the garage, the storage shed, utility rooms, kids' closets, bathroom-vanity drawers, attic and basement, if you have one. Why leave out that messy drawer or closet and throw away several hundred dollars of value? Yes, insurance companies pay for items in the laundry bag, kitchen pantry, under the sink and especially in the toy boxes.

- (2) Photographs - Any type of picture serves the same purpose as mentioned in #1 above. Even the birthday, Christmas, baby/bridal shower snapshots, will remind you of items you would only remember when you got ready to use them months after a loss. Even those snapshots with one's hair in rollers, ugly nightgown, early Christmas morning surprise shots, will have some of your belongings in the background. Don't throw them away; put them somewhere and call them, "reference-sources to family investments"!
- (3) Pictures Out of Catalogs - Some evening, sit down with the family (even with the TV on) and have the children, husband, or mother-in-law, help tear out pictures from sales catalogs. Any items that resemble or remind you of those items you own, constitute a reminder later, after a loss, of those items you don't perhaps use daily. Even if the blender in the catalog is green, and yours is yellow, in case of fire or theft, the catalog article will "remind" you to include the description and value on your insurance and police loss form. Believe it or not, most people just believe that fire and burglary only cause loss to televisions, stereos, radios, jewelry, cameras, and money. I recently paid a claim in which I asked the client, why he had not listed as part of the inventory, the sheets and pillowcases used by the burglars to carry off his valuables. You guessed it - he hadn't thought about them. Why throw away \$25.00 to \$50.00? You will lose enough in the form of deductibles and forgotten items.
- (4) Updated and Added Detail to Shipping/packing Lists - If you move keep the packing lists and add to them occasionally.
- (5) "Thank You Card List" - If you receive items as gifts (showers, birthday parties, weddings, etc.) and later write a thank you card to those who gave, keep the messy list you listed the names and items on.
- (6) Warranty Papers, Bills of Sale, Receipts, Charge Card Slips, and Cancelled Checks - All serve as proof of ownership and, of course, reminders.
- (7) Photo Albums - Already mentioned are the pictures we usually store or throw away because of vanity and time. How about the entire photo album? If you had a fire, what could absolutely not be re-

placed by the insurance company? Pictures of the kids, of us when we were young, etc. Why not keep the entire photo album away from premises in a "safe place"? If you want to show them off, you can remember to bring them home. If you ever have a loss you will think this is the #1 best idea or suggestion you ever heard. As a background inventory, almost every household picture will reveal some personal belongings. At least keep some of your albums somewhere else, then in case of a fire you will have some "memories" left. The family photo album is one extremely valuable item to be lost forever. Most persons are willing to take extra steps to safeguard their family albums and keep them off-premises and in a safe place if just asked to do so.

You can probably think of many other inventory methods. Good, if everyone would just use their ideas and be the least bit faithful about doing and updating their inventory, we would all have a happier ending to losses in the home.

The reason for inventory should be apparent, but somewhat like dieting, smoking, seat belts and regular dental and doctor check-ups: many of us don't take the time to do what is good for us or perhaps like many, we may feel that it won't or can't happen to us. Wrong, on every count. It will happen to someone who reads this article...someday!

After a loss, either by fire, water, burglary, or other peril, the first thing is the task of facing the reality that it did happen to you. Then there are all the questions by the police, or authority figures in many cases, and then comes the insurance adjusters. Hopefully, everyone will have some type of appropriate insurance. The adjuster will ask you to make a list, or inventory of everything you lost, when and where you purchased each item, the initial cost of the item, and the current replacement cost of the item. Often, they will ask for "proof" that you had the item prior to loss, either in the form of bills-of-sale, receipts, pictures, appraisals, warranty, documents or any other data that will substantiate ownership, value, condition, make, model, manufacturer, etc.

As I mentioned, at the beginning of this article, it's a lot easier to sit down after a traumatic loss and look at pictures, movies, lists, or something, and write down all these items, than it is to look at the ashes of your home, and try to think of all that you have to do to get started again, and still try to remember all the items in every drawer, closet, attic, garage, nook and cranny resulting from years of living in a residence.

I've seen it happen to others, I've been robbed myself, I've paid for fires, and I've held and comforted those who have lost everything. I would rather pay thousands of dollars for a well-documented claim, than argue over a hundred dollars of a controversial loss.

The decision is each person's responsibility, but we all lose when we sit back and do nothing. Call your insurance agent and ask for assistance, before he or she has to call you with resistance.

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Jim Minton is an agent with the State Farm Insurance Companies in Austin, Texas. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Colorado, where he majored in the field of Business Management.

Jim served four years in the Air Force and has traveled extensively throughout the United States with the Air Force, as well as State Farm.

Jim holds several insurance designations and certificates including CPCU and CIPA. He credits his insurance knowledge to the front-line training, experience and standards of excellence that State Farm has provided him. Jim has been in mid-management positions with State Farm for some twelve years before establishing his own agency.

Jim displays the State Farm slogan of "Like a good neighbor" with his community-minded attitude, as well as living in the same community he serves. "I'm just like my neighbors, so I guess I know how they feel, and what they expect of me, and I do my best to make most things turn out to the satisfaction of my customers, my company and myself."

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CHAPTER 9

HOW TO START A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

By
Sergeant Dick Koble

Neighborhood Watch or Crime Watch is based on a program started in 1972 by the National Sheriffs' Association. Recognizing that crime was increasing dramatically in the United States, the law enforcement community wanted a way to encourage citizens to help law enforcement officers fight crime by being more observant of suspicious or criminal activity and reporting it to proper agencies.

The Neighborhood Watch Program that is now in existence throughout the United States encompasses over 8,000 sheriffs, police departments and citizen organizations. Nearly 30,000 Neighborhood Watch Programs have been developed. It is estimated that over 15 million persons are participating. Neighborhood Watch is essentially a civilian citizen program with local law enforcement officers serving in an advisory capacity only.

A person wanting to organize a Neighborhood Watch Program should arrange an informal meeting of several neighbors who are concerned about crime and are willing to assist in its prevention. This small group should discuss their neighborhood problems and what results they expect, and should obtain definite commitments from each other to continue the program. The Watch Committee should then pick a meeting place (home, church, school, or community center) and plan the meeting well enough in advance to give everyone advance notice. The best time for a meeting for people working days would be in the evening; however, daytime meetings work well for neighborhoods having a large number of residents who are retired.

Make a list of all neighbors contacted who wish to participate and prepare a meeting agenda. Select a leadership nucleus (Neighborhood Watch Coordinator and Block Captains) to represent a geographical area (one or more blocks within the neighborhood). The leaders should be people with "people" skills who have credibility and who can organize and lead others to act. Contact the local law enforcement agency, advise them of your plans and request a presentation on crime and what citizens can do to prevent it. If there is a civic association representing the neighborhood, ask the appropriate committee to study and assist in the development of the program.

In the first general meeting the coordinator should give the purpose and brief background for the meeting. Have all in attendance introduce themselves to build the "TEAM" concept. Introduce the law enforcement representative, listen to his or her suggestions, and discuss ways in which you can watch out for each other. Discuss YOUR neighborhood crime problems and allow full participation to develop the "TEAM" concept further. Explain the benefits of the Neighborhood Watch Program and schedule other meetings as needed.

The Neighborhood Watch Committee should consist of the coordinator and all block captains as they hold the most crucial positions. The committee has the following responsibilities:

- (1) Maintain and expand the program.
- (2) Set objectives and form strategies in cooperation with law enforcement officers that will make the neighborhood safer.
- (3) Plan and implement programs that will be beneficial and appropriate for the neighborhood.
- (4) Assess the success of the program and provide feedback to residents and law enforcement. An excellent means is a Neighborhood newsletter containing news items of interest to the residents living within the Neighborhood Watch community.

All participants in the program should get acquainted with their neighbors, know their names, and be able to identify them and their motor vehicles by sight. They should regularly attend meetings and make their homes as burglar-resistant as possible. Property should be marked for identification by using "Operation Identification" guidelines.

Be observant for suspicious activity and notify law enforcement as soon as possible. Educate children in crime prevention and instill respect for law enforcement. **TAKE NO DIRECT ACTION, DO NOT TRY TO MAKE ARRESTS.** Get all the information and phone the local law enforcement agency. Vehicle, bicycle or foot patrols can be organized, but should be approved by law enforcement officials. Signs can be placed at strategic locations throughout the neighborhoods to inform strangers of the program.

Remember that the program is only as effective as the neighborhood makes it.

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Sergeant Dick Koble is the Crime Prevention Officer for the Round Rock Police Department.

A police career of thirty years began with his enlistment in the U.S. Army in 1956 and assignment to the Military Police Corps. In 1959 he entered the Austin Police Department Academy and was commissioned in March of 1960.

After serving with the Austin Police Department, with the Southern Pacific Railroad as an investigator, and with the Federal Protective Services at the L.B.J. Library, he joined the Round Rock Police Department as a patrolman in 1978. In 1980 he was promoted to Sergeant of Patrol and was assigned his present job in 1985.

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CHAPTER 10

HOW TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

By
Ron Harmon

No police department can function effectively without the concerned assistance of responsible citizens. They are depending on YOU to call and tell them whenever you observe suspicious persons or actions. (1)

The police cannot realistically be everywhere all of the time. On an average shift it would be safe to assume that a minimum of two hours are spent on paperwork. When the officer makes a case and when it comes to court it is entirely possible that it will take an entire day, if not more. So then, how can we increase the coverage in your neighborhood? The best way is for you, the citizen, to act as additional eyes and ears for the police. A strong Neighborhood Watch or Crimestoppers Program in your community is one of the most successful deterrents to criminal activity.

George B. Sunderland, Manager of Criminal Justice Services, American Association of Retired Persons, spoke recently and stated that "in recent years, people in the community haven't taken responsibility for crime management. In fact, the Ad Council conducted a national poll, and the following are some of the results:

- Most people believe crime is inevitable.
- Most people believe nothing can be done about crime.
- Most people believe that crime is a police problem.
- Most people believe that crime is not "their" problem.

These are all myths - myths and an attitude problem." (2) Anyone can report a crime or suspected criminal activity to the police. In fact, the police wish that more persons would call. YOU can make a difference. YOUR call is important. How does a person go about reporting suspected criminal activity? For starters, keep the telephone number of the police next to the telephone. The delay of looking up the number or going through the operator might just give the criminal time to leave the area.

Remain calm when the police officer answers your telephone call. If the officer on the other end of the line can't understand you, or make sense of what you are saying, valuable time will be wasted. You know what you are seeing, but he has to form a picture in his mind just from your words.

The police officer speaking to you will probably have a prepared form which will aid in receiving the most information in the shortest period of time. He will ask you questions pertaining to: Who? What? When? Where? and How? Usually while you are still on the telephone, a police patrol in your area will be dispatched to the vicinity of the criminal activity or suspicious person.

The officer on the phone will probably want you to remain on the phone and will continue to ask questions while the patrol unit is en route. Some of the questions may seem to be repetitious; however, bear with it. Some of this additional information may just be the key which catches the criminal.

What is the best way to describe the suspect? Think of someone you know well, or even yourself, and then compare. Is the criminal about the same age as your nephew - or closer to the age of the bag boy at the grocery? Does the suspect weigh as much as the lady at the laundry - or as much as the one on a popular TV commercial? Of course you need to include race, sex, hair color, etc. Try to remember if the suspect had facial hair or was clean shaven.

Try to use your mind like a photograph. Was there something particularly unique about this person? Did this person have a tattoo or a scar? What kind of jewelry did the suspect have? Most of us wear the same jewelry every day (watches, rings, bracelets, necklaces). Odds are that if the suspect had them on today he will probably wear them again tomorrow. Did this person limp or walk oddly? Most important! Can you identify this person if you saw him or her again?

What kind of vehicle did the suspect use? Old or new, big or little, red or green? Ideally the police could use the following information: color, make, model, year, license plate number, special markings, dents, etc. Any information you can provide about the vehicle is important. We live in a highly mobile society and criminals are no different. In one hour's time, the criminal could do the exact same crime, three different times, in three different neighborhoods, separated by thirty miles. Something distinctive that you remember about a car may be the key that ties your neighbor's crime in with one that is some distance away. When the criminal is caught he could then be linked to several crimes and be tried for all of the offenses.

What if you don't know anything about cars? You probably remember more than you realize. Did the car have a bright new paint job, or an old sun-faded one? Was there more than one color on the car? Were the headlights and taillights round or square? Did there appear to be any damage to the car? Were there any noticeable dents or scratches? Did the bumper hang down on one side? Texas license plates are black on white in color. Picture the car, in the middle of the bumper - was there any color? Maybe this car had colors in the license plate (out of state plates)!

We all remember the cartoon character saying "Which way did they go?" You know your neighborhood and the police patrol knows the area. Your directions of travel for the suspicious vehicle may allow the police patrol to set up a roadblock and catch this vehicle several miles from where you observed it.

Some people fail to call the police because they are not aware of what seemingly innocent activities might be suspicious. Others may notice a suspicious activity and be hesitant to call for fear of seeming a "nosy neighbor" or a "crank." Still other people take it for granted that someone else has already called. (3)

Call the police immediately about all suspicious activity, and do it yourself. Don't worry about bothering them because that is what the police are there for. Don't worry about being embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded. Think instead about what could happen if you don't act. What is suspicious activity? Basically, anything that seems "out of place." Anything you feel is wrong needs reporting. The police would much rather investigate a crime-prone situation than be called later when it is too late. Your call could save a life, prevent an injury, or stop a criminal act. (4)

What are some of the most obvious things to look for and report to the police?

- A stranger entering a neighbor's house when it may be unoccupied.
- A scream heard anywhere.
- Offers of merchandise at ridiculously low prices.
- Anyone peering into parked cars.
- Anyone running who is carrying a bundle.
- Persons entering or leaving a place of business at odd hours.
- The sound of breaking glass or loud explosive noises.
- Persons loitering around schools, parks, secluded areas, or in the neighborhood.

These are by no means the only suspicious activities to be watchful for. Anything that seems out of place to YOU is important to report. Your reporting of suspicious activity is one of the best methods of crime prevention for your neighborhood.

Not every stranger who comes into your neighborhood is a criminal. There are many perfectly legitimate door-to-door salesmen, repairmen, and service people moving around neighborhoods all the time. But criminals do take advantage of this by assuming the guise of legitimate business people. Remember, if a criminal looked like a criminal everybody could spot him immediately. Also, the legitimate business person has nothing to fear by proving his identity. He loses business when criminals impersonate him.

Remember, the police are there to **PROTECT** and **SERVE**. That means to **PROTECT** the citizens of your community and to **SERVE** the needs of your community. If you hesitate or do not call, your police are not efficiently serving you. The police would rather check on numerous legitimate door-to-door salesmen than to allow one citizen to be harmed by a criminal working in your neighborhood.

What are some things to watch for that are not so obvious?

- A car which seems to be circling your neighborhood. This could be the lookout or the getaway car for a burglar.
- Persons who come to your door asking about a nonexistent person or perhaps asking for directions and stating they are lost. This could be someone who is learning about who is and isn't home during the day.
- An abnormal number of wrong numbers or hangups on your telephone. Someone, again, may be checking who is at home.
- Persons who are sitting in cars in public parking areas. These could be purse or person snatchers.
- Persons who are walking or running along the street and are carrying items. These could be persons leaving the scene of a crime.
- Anyone at all who offers you a deal that is too good to be true. If this were so we would all be rich!

Again, these are by no means the only things to be on the lookout for. Anytime you feel something is wrong, pick up the phone and call. A small recap of the important items in reporting suspicious activity:

1. **BE PREPARED.** Keep the emergency number near your phone.
2. **REMAIN CALM.** Avoid taking any risks. Keep away from the crime.
3. **WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? HOW?**
4. **REMAIN ON THE PHONE.**

Above all, remember that with your help in reporting suspicious activity, law enforcement agencies can more effectively protect the rights of all citizens.⁽⁵⁾

ENDNOTES

- (1) Horseshoe Bay, Texas Police Department, Crime Prevention for the Businessman and Concerned Citizen, 1988.
- (2) "Violent Crime Against the Elderly," FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, July 1988.
- (3) U.S. Department of Justice, "Take a Bite Out of Crime," 1979.
- (4) Horseshoe Bay, Texas Police Department, Crime Prevention for the Businessman and Concerned Citizen, 1988.
- (5) American Association of Retired Persons, "How to Report Suspicious Activities," 1986.

Ron Harmon is the Chief Investigator with the Llano County Sheriff's Department in Llano, Texas. He graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy in North Carolina in May of 1974. He is a graduate of the Criminal Justice Center of the University of Houston.

He is listed in Who's Who in American Law Enforcement, 5th Triennial Edition and also in the Marquise Who's Who in the South and Southwest, 1988 Edition.

He is a member of Llano Lodge, AF & AM and the Scottish Rite.

He is a member of the Law Enforcement Education Committee of CAPCO.

He and his wife, Debbye, live on a ranch near Llano with their three children.

CHAPTER 11

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CAR

By
Stacy L. Robinson

Automobile theft is a nationwide problem that every law enforcement agency in America has to deal with in one way or another. The statistics are staggering nationwide. The 1987 Department of Justice (F.B.I.) Uniform Crime Reports, released July 10, 1988, state that 1 motor vehicle theft occurs every 24 seconds in this nation. The reports also state that the number of reported cases of Motor Vehicle Theft has increased 5.3 percent from 1986 to 1987 to a 1987 yearly total of 1,288,674. These offenses comprised 11 percent of ALL property crimes.

Auto theft is probably one of the easiest and least expensive areas to deter crime. Let's face it, if everyone would lock their car doors, take the keys out of the ignition and park in a well-lit area at night, the rate of car thefts would drop significantly. And guess what? No one has spent any money yet! Now granted, this is perhaps an oversimplified solution to the problem, but it would help. And of course there are other types of solutions that cost money, such as a burglar alarm installed somewhere on the vehicle. I happen to be a firm believer in "electronic wizardry," but many people do not have the money and/or the time or knowledge to invest in a burglar alarm.

There are other methods which can be used besides burglar alarms to help "harden the target." These methods include rolling up the windows TIGHT, storing spare keys in a wallet, not in the car (a professional thief knows all the hiding places) and replacing standard door lock buttons with the slim, tapered kind. They are almost impossible to pull up with a coat hanger. Also, when the car is parked in a driveway, make sure the nose is pointed towards the street, so anyone tampering with the engine can be seen more easily (and don't forget the use of outdoor lighting where the car is going to be parked at night).

Other anti-theft measures include the installation of a kill switch that won't allow starting the car unless the hidden switch is activated. Or a fuel switch can be installed that closes off the supply of gasoline to the engine. A metal shield, called an Armored Collar, may be locked around the steering column (it also covers the ignition) to make it tougher to gain access to any important steering or operating devices in the car. A Crook lock (bar lock) may be used to lock the steering wheel to the brake pedal. The Crook lock would be used for the same reasons as the Armored Collar.

One of the most important rules to remember, is NEVER leave the car running, no matter how short the errand. Amateur thieves have been known to hang out at convenience stores just waiting for an unattended car with the engine running. A good "rule of thumb" to live by is: Make it time-consuming to steal a car, and the thief will probably try his luck on someone else's.

Another way the car owner can fight back is to drop a business card down the slot between the door and window or use an engraver to engrave an identification number in a hard-to-reach or hard-to-see area on the body or frame. If the car is stolen, chances are a professional car thief will alter the identification number, so extra precautions like those just mentioned may help in the recovery of the stolen car or may aid the owner in claiming the car, after police have recovered it.

There are numerous anti-theft measures and devices to choose from, but it must be stressed that THEY WILL NOT WORK IF THEY ARE NOT USED!! Apathy is the best friend of a criminal and one of the worst enemies of a Crime Prevention Officer and law enforcement in general. Auto theft is something that MUST be addressed by the law enforcement community, and when police do address the problem, they should draw the local citizens into the arena and have THEM help.

The first thing that must be done is to give the topic of auto theft wide coverage among the citizens and leaders of the community and to strongly stress the magnitude of the problem. The police must strive to make citizens realize that they are trying to correct a problem that affects not only the citizens but their pocketbooks as well.

The main idea is to make the topic important enough to drive home real interest to even the most "laid back" individual. The officer or agency does that by bringing the topic out into the open, talking about it with as many citizens as possible, and making them realize how bad the situation is and how simple (and inexpensive) it is for each individual vehicle owner to do some serious crime prevention to help their community and their police strive for a more law-abiding, peaceful community.

The news media may be able to help your cause as well. Notify the local newspapers when you will be speaking to groups about the subject and let the reporters and photographers help spread the word. Any public broadcast system (radio or cable TV) in your area can be approached for air time concerning this subject. You may find that most, if not all, of the air time on the "public" local channels is free for a public service message such as this.

This problem can also be approached from another direction as well. Within each police agency, there is always someone who is generally more knowledgeable about the process of recovering stolen motor vehicles. That person needs to be utilized in the training of all the other officers in the agency, to enhance their knowledge of how to recover and preserve as evidence, the vehicle involved and anything else that may be connected to the vehicle and the offense. It is suggested that proper interrogation methods be taught concerning stopping of possible stolen vehicles to help insure that a suspect does not escape and that an innocent motorist is not detained any longer than is absolutely necessary.

In each agency there should be an easy flow of essential information between the detective and patrol divisions and between the different shifts of officers on patrol. This steady, daily (or even hourly) flow should be of a nature that keeps current information about activities

on the street at the fingertips of the on-duty street officers. The methods of operation of auto thieves in local areas should be known by every officer. The most likely places for auto theft should be kept up-to-date and any information concerning the criminal histories and descriptions of local car thieves should be part of the information supplied to the officers.

Last but not least, the officer that is responsible for the transfer of cases from his agency to the district attorney's office might want to stop by and talk to the district attorney and discuss with him any techniques of investigation or report writing, that may, in his opinion, need improving to enhance the chances of conviction should the cases come to trial. The officer may also want to talk to him about lengths or types of punishment if there is a problem of auto thefts within the area of the officer's jurisdiction and see if heightened awareness of the problem (or the amount of public concern) will bring about genuine attempts at stiffer sentences after conviction. A good strong line of communication between a police agency and the local district attorney's office will always help. A high rate of convictions and stiff sentences is a good preventive measure and gets the known, convicted car thief off the street for awhile, in most cases.

There are several ways to approach the problem of auto theft and there are some really good, inexpensive ways to help prevent it. The main thing to remember is that most of the prevention is going to have to come from a very strong, "grass roots" effort, headed by the local police.

REFERENCE

Shell Oil Company. "The Car Crime Prevention Book," Shell Answer Book #9, Post Office Box 61609, Houston, Texas 77208.

Mr. Stacy L. Robinson is both Crime Prevention Officer and Patrol Officer for the City of Lockhart Police Department. He heads up the Crime Prevention Unit for the City of Lockhart and has spent most of his 8 years in law enforcement working for the City of Lockhart as a patrolman. He also spent some time as a volunteer fire fighter. He has just completed training for and is certified as an Emergency Care Attendant.

He has spent several years in sales, ranging from fire alarms to camera equipment. He has had his own photography studio and has been a freelance photographer since he was 16 years old.

CHAPTER 12

HOW TO HELP CRIME STOPPERS IN TEXAS

By
David M. Cobos

In the search for new methods for solving felony crimes, law enforcement professionals have discovered an effective means of reaching an important source of information--the public. With the backing of the community, the cooperation of the police, and the assistance of the news media, community-based nonprofit Crime Stoppers programs publicize unsolved crimes and offer cash rewards for information leading to arrests and indictments. The primary goal is to generate new leads in unsolved cases by encouraging persons who have information about criminal activity to come forward without fear of retaliation. Nationwide, the Crime Stoppers programs are rapidly gaining popularity and are considered to be one of the most useful of the new crime control techniques.

TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS

In 1981, the 67th Legislature created a Texas Crime Stoppers program for the purpose of supporting existing local Crime Stoppers programs and promoting the formation of new programs in communities throughout the state. Under Chapter 414, Texas Government Code, this statewide program is overseen by a five-member Crime Stoppers Advisory Council that is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Council operates within, and is staffed by, the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office.

At the local level, the Crime Stoppers programs function as private, nonprofit organizations. Texas Crime Stoppers is specifically designed to complement and further the efforts of these programs, and to reinforce their interaction with law enforcement agencies and communities. A community interested in establishing a local program can obtain all of the information and help needed to organize the project by contacting the Texas Crime Stoppers staff. Once the program is operating, it continues to receive support through assistance with media promotions, such as the "Crime of the Week" television reenactments. The staff also assists local programs in channeling the information received about criminal activities to the appropriate state or local law enforcement agency. When necessary, the staff travels to cities throughout the state to provide technical expertise and to personally assist in setting up new programs.

A local Crime Stoppers program is community-based, private, and nonprofit, and its primary goal is to encourage citizens, the news media, and law enforcement to cooperate in obtaining information on criminal activity for the purpose of solving or preventing crimes. To achieve this goal, Crime Stoppers offers complete anonymity to persons giving information

and rewards of up to \$1,000 for information that results in felony indictments. Each program must file articles of incorporation with the Texas Secretary of State; must have a civilian board of directors that oversees operation of the program, including the receipt of donations and disbursal of those donated funds as rewards; and must cooperate fully with the law enforcement agencies in the area it serves. If the program employs full-time staff, the program coordinator should be a certified law enforcement officer, or other qualified individual, chosen by the participating law enforcement agencies.

Approximately 700 Crime Stoppers programs have been established in the United States and Canada; 184 of those programs are currently operating in Texas, the largest number in any single jurisdiction. Since the creation of the first Crime Stoppers in El Paso in September, 1978, information provided to Texas programs has led to the arrest of more than 31,868 suspects and solved 44,934 cases. These local programs have paid out almost \$5 million in rewards, recovered over \$91 million in stolen property, and confiscated more than \$228 million in narcotics. Based on an eight-hour workday, local Crime Stoppers programs solve one crime for every 28 minutes of operation and recover \$15,333 worth of stolen property and narcotics per hour.

An essential part of statewide assistance is the continuous training that Texas Crime Stoppers provides for citizens, law enforcement personnel, and media representatives involved in the local programs. Included in the training curriculum are basic and advanced Crime Stoppers courses, regional seminars that are held each year in conjunction with the Texas Crime Prevention Institute, and other special training seminars conducted for local programs by the staff. This training, both in actual operational techniques and in critical areas such as fund-raising, is vital to the success of any Crime Stoppers program.

Texas Crime Stoppers maintains a toll-free hotline (1-800-252-TIPS) for citizens who wish to report crime information and do not know how to contact, or do not have, a local program. Information received from an area with an active Crime Stoppers program is relayed to that program by the Texas Crime Stoppers staff. In areas without a local program, the information is given to the appropriate law enforcement agency. the TIPS-line also serves as a backup for local programs that cannot man their telephones 24 hours a day. The state hotline is manned 24 hours a day. In addition, the state office recently added a tele-communication device for the deaf (TDD). The instrument is available from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on the main hotline at 1-800-252-TIPS.

In addition to other duties, the Texas Crime Stoppers staff reviews, processes, and maintains grants to local programs that have been funded under the Crime Stoppers Assistance Program with special appropriations provided by the 69th and 70th Legislature respectively.

Mr. David M. Cobos is the Program Coordinator for Texas Crime Stoppers Advisory Council in Austin, Texas. Mr. Cobos has served in his present position since June 1987. Prior experience includes eight years with the Midland County Sheriff's Department where he served as a jailer, patrol officer, a sergeant in the criminal investigation division, and as the Crime Stoppers Coordinator for the department.

Mr. Cobos holds a Bachelor of Music Degree from Hardin-Simmons University. In 1987, he was honored by the Midland Crime Commission as the Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

CHAPTER 13

HOW TO SPOT A CON ARTIST

By
Sergeant Carl Deal & Officer Mike Wood

Has anyone ever played on your CONFidence?

It might have been a person passing himself off as a bank examiner that took you for some of your hard-earned money. It might have also been someone posing as a home improvement specialist who built you a porch that fell apart 10 minutes after he left, or it might have been one of your children that sweet-talked you into giving them candy or movie money. Any way you look at it, you were conned. If you feel alone in your dilemma, you're not. Every year, thousands of people across the country lose **BILLIONS** of dollars as victims of con artists and their games.

Who is the con artist?

He or she is a very good actor that appears no different than you or me. The con artist is usually a friendly person, a smooth talker, and almost always offers his potential victim a deal that is too-good-to-be-true. The con artist has many costumes he or she uses in swindling victims. These costumes range from the formal business suit to construction overalls to stereotype Gypsy fortune-teller attire with the flowing robes and flashy jewelry.

What are Con games?

Con games, or confidence games, are a form of fraud. In every instance, the con artist offers the potential victim something for nothing or at a surprisingly low price. The con artist could ask you for information about your personal finances. You could be asked to pay large sums of cash or to take part in a confidential operation where a large cash withdrawal is to be made from your savings account. Some of the common names given to these games are: Bank Examiner Scam, Pigeon Drop, Jamaican Switch, Home Improvement Fraud, Postal Fraud, Fortune-Tellers, Three Card Monte, and the ever popular \$50 stereo or VCR that is actually a brick in a box. Of these, the Bank Examiner Scam is usually the most costly as the victims are usually taken for thousands of dollars. The most popular of these are the Three Card Monte, Jamaican Switch, and Pigeon Drop.

Who are the victims?

Anyone can become a victim of a con artist from the young businessman to the elderly widow living alone. There are also those that think they are too smart to get conned and are they surprised when it happens to them. Most of the time, a victim is a person that is trusting of others

and in need of supplemental income. Con artists exploit people that are lonely and willing to help those who appear to need it. Given the chance, the con artist will convince the victim to relinquish such assets as jewelry, life insurance benefits, pensions, and life savings or other large amounts of cash. If a con artist can win your confidence or sympathy with his game, he's got you right where he wants you.

What can YOU do to keep from becoming another con artist's victim?

- (1) Don't fall for "something for nothing" deals.
- (2) Be careful of those that give you high-pressure sales tactics.
- (3) Take time to check out any merchandise being offered to you. Compare prices, services, and the reputation of the sales person and the company he claims to represent. This can be done by talking to friends, checking with consumer protection agencies, and calling the Better Business Bureau.
- (4) Require all agreements you make to be in writing and in **PLAIN ENGLISH**. If you are not sure of the wording in an agreement or contract, **DON'T** sign it. Have a lawyer approve all major agreements or contracts **BEFORE** they are finalized.
- (5) Most important of all, **TAKE YOUR TIME** and **THINK** about any deal **BEFORE** you part with your hard-earned money. Remember, you get what you pay for.

What do you do if you are conned?

The biggest problem faced by law enforcement in trying to stop swindlers and con artists is that victims often feel too embarrassed to report their loss. Con artists depend upon your cooperation by remaining silent. All you are doing by not notifying the authorities of your loss is helping the con artist. If you become a victim of a con artist, report it immediately to your local law enforcement agency. It is also a good idea to notify the Better Business Bureau of the incident. If you are not swindled but are approached by someone you suspect to be a con artist, advise a law enforcement officer or the District Attorney's Office of the incident.

We can't guarantee that by following these guidelines you will never fall prey to a con artist. We can only hope that you will familiarize yourself with this information and reduce your chances of being conned. If you have any other questions or need more information, contact your local Police Department, Sheriff Department, District Attorney's Office, or the Crime Prevention Specialist, Capital Area Planning Council.

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Sergeant Carl Deal is a Crime Prevention Specialist and Community Services Division Coordinator with the San Marcos Police Department. Carl initiated and developed the San Marcos Police crime prevention program in 1981. He has been with the San Marcos Police Department for nine years and has eleven years of law enforcement experience. Carl has also served as Traffic Division Coordinator, STEP Program Coordinator, Uniformed Patrol Supervisor, and Detective with the Department's Criminal Investigation Division.

Officer Mike Wood is a Certified Crime Prevention Specialist with the San Marcos Police Department. Mike has been with the Police Department four and one-half years, the last two and one-half years as a Crime Prevention Officer and Crime Stoppers Coordinator in the Community Services Division. Mike was chosen First Runner-Up as Crime Prevention Specialist of the Year through the Texas Crime Prevention Association. Mike was also one of 10 finalists as Crime Stoppers Coordinator of the Year through Crime Stoppers International.

For Sergeant Deal's and Officer Wood's successful crime prevention efforts, the Texas Crime Prevention Association distinguished the San Marcos Police Department as the Outstanding Crime Prevention Agency in the State of Texas for cities with population under 50,000.

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CHAPTER 14

HOW TO DEVELOP COMMUNITY RELATIONS

By
Stacy L. Robinson

Community relations is an age-old topic that dates back as far as the first gathering of people that formed a community group to further the welfare of the individual participants. Although methods by which community relations are practiced have changed dramatically, the advantages, as well as the problems, connected with community relations have basically remained the same down through the ages. The desired end result is a relationship (and an image) successfully brought forth by an individual or organization that is of positive benefit to both the organization and the people of the community.

As a general rule, the role played by the local police in the United States is viewed differently by the general public than their counterparts in places like England. The police in the United States are often thought of as adversaries, not only by the common criminal, but by the general population as well. It's the old, "us against them" type of mentality that even the police have a tendency to use. In some foreign countries, the police have a more congenial type of relationship with the public, do not have to resort as often to force to get the job done, and thus enjoy a much better relationship with the public.

In the United States, crime prevention blends naturally with community relations. That is, one helps the other. You can't have successful citizen participation in any police-related matter without a positive relationship between the two groups. Crime prevention and the development of community relations strive for the same goals. It ALWAYS helps to have the full support and guidance of all superior officers. Successful community relations starts at the top and works its way down and out to the public. Positive (or negative) community relations begin with the influence that the department policy creates on the behavior of all officers within the department.

Emphasis on department policy and ALL officers, not just crime prevention officers, is mentioned because it is important that ALL officers be concerned with and take an active part in community relations. When all officers are involved, it presents an image of true sincerity that is readily noted by the public. It is also unrealistic to place all of the responsibility for good public relations on the shoulders of one or two officers.

Patrolmen on the beat and crime prevention officers are some of the most important people within the police organization when it comes to implementation of positive community relations efforts. These officers are in direct contact with more of the general public than nearly any other group within the agency.

Real hands-on work in community relations begins with the day-to-day contact of officers with the public while the officers are in the process of doing their job, whether that job is working an accident, taking a report on a burglary or talking about bicycle safety to a group of school children. It is also important to "go the extra mile" and do a little extra for someone when the opportunity arises. Perhaps a chance may come in the form of stopping to help someone stranded on the highway, instead of passing on by. Or it may come in the form of stopping by to check on an elderly person that you know is handicapped and that worries about their own safety because of the crimes they read about in the local paper or hear about on TV. Or maybe the opportunity comes when a crime prevention officer takes the time, while off duty, to help erect "Neighborhood Watch" signs in a neighborhood that is short of help.

New ways to serve the public, both by the department and by crime prevention officers, may be invented to improve public relations and to give the public more value for their tax dollars. One example might be for the department to start a "House Watch" program whereby citizens within the jurisdiction of the department can call in and register their home or business to be checked several times every 24 hours by police while they are away on a trip. A log is kept on each time the building or residence is checked and a copy of the log is furnished to the citizen upon their return. Any programs started in the area of crime prevention are a boost for community relations. Such programs as "Neighborhood Watch" and programs in local schools dealing with drugs, alcohol, and driving while intoxicated bring about a greater feeling of camaraderie between the police and the public. Such programs let the public know that YOUR agency is taking a special interest in the public it serves.

The news media, in its various forms, is another means that crime prevention officers can use to help gain support for their agency. Newspapers are often willing to print something given them by their local police and it usually doesn't cost a cent. Letters to the editor and a small weekly column are ways to get information into the newspapers without cost. If an officer has access to a local city newspaper as well as one that circulates throughout the county, then the more the merrier! Cable TV in the form of an information channel for the city or county in which you work is an excellent way to provide information to the public concerning civic and social services that are available and to provide a source of inexpensive or free advertising for the crime prevention unit in the area.

The reason for using these methods is to open channels of communication (and KEEP them open) between the local citizens and their police agency, in an effort to establish and maintain a positive rapport between the two, and to achieve a better and safer society, which is a primary goal of the police.

SUMMARY

By
William D. Kirkpatrick

It has indeed been a gratifying experience to serve as general editor of this booklet in an effort to create an ongoing exchange of "Clues Against Crime" among law enforcement officers and crime prevention specialists in the Capital Area Planning Council (CAPCO) region.

Thomas Jefferson said it best: "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance". Freedom from crimes against persons and their property depends upon people caring about each other and themselves enough to exercise precautions, share information, and report suspicious activities.

Although there never has been a foolproof crime prevention method discovered, it is my firm belief that by reading and heeding the crime prevention tips in this booklet, many crimes or attempted crimes can be averted, delayed, or perhaps even prevented entirely. Criminals take advantage of opportunities. When we remove the opportunity we often prevent the crime.

It was very rewarding to meet either personally and/or through their literary efforts the writers who contributed to this booklet. Their sole reward will be the pleasure that comes from doing well that which they do best -- helping to prevent crime. Thank you all very much.