



*Crime prevention and safety tips*

Board of County Commissioners | Criminal Justice Liaison

January 2011

## *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design - CPTED*



- *CPTED uses environmental tactics and designs to create a safer home.*
- *CPTED eliminates opportunities for criminals in and around your property.*
- *When CPTED principles are applied, people who use an area feel safer and would-be criminals are discouraged from committing a crime.\**

### *CPTED Strategies*

#### **1. Natural Access Control—Getting into and out of your home.**

- Locate walkways, fences, landscaping and lighting to direct visitors to your front door and away from private areas.
- Install small walls or gates between the street and house to indicate entry points.
- Plant thorny plants along fence lines and under windows to deter access by intruders.
- Keep the garage door shut and locked.

#### **2. Natural Surveillance—Maximizing safety by maximizing your visibility.**

- Don't let landscaping obstruct views from doors and windows.
- Keep the front door at least partially visible from the street.
- Install windows in main living areas so you can see the yard and driveway.
- Illuminate all doorways that open to the outside, and use dusk-to-dawn sensors on lighting fixtures.
- Install motion sensing lights around the garage and outside your home.

#### **3. Territorial Reinforcement—Using physical attributes to show ownership.**

- Mark clear boundaries with fences and landscaping.
- Create transitional areas between the street and the home with front porches or stoops
- Make the home address clearly visible from the street.
- Display security system signage at access points.

#### **4. Maintenance—A well maintained home creates a sense of ownership.**

- Keep trees and shrubs trimmed back from windows, doors and walkways.
- Trim hedges to three feet in height and prune lower tree branches up to seven feet to maintain clear visibility of streets and sidewalks.
- Keep lawn mowed and neat, as uncut grass and weeds send a signal that a home is uninhabited.
- Keep exterior lighting in working order.
- Keep yards free of items that might attract theft.

\*National Crime Prevention Council

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioner goals are to reduce property crime, violent crime and overall crime by 2015. These tips are intended to increase your awareness and help avoid crime. If you have a proven prevention or awareness tip that can be shared, fax it to 813-276-2630 for consideration for a future Crime Prevention and Safety Tip. If you have questions regarding this tip, call 813-276-2033.