

# CRIME PREVENTION

Preparing Our Community  
Working Together



**LOCK IT OR LOSE IT!**



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## All Hazards Threat Matrix



- The National Planning Scenarios\* provide guidance for our community (all hazards):
- Natural Disasters
- Infrastructure Failure
- Riots, Civil Unrest, Terrorism
- Pandemic
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) attack

**Crime in your area:**

**[www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com)**

*EVERYONE has a role to play in improving our ability to sustain our community's safety in the face of such possibilities.*

\* [http://www.fema.gov/pdf/media/factsheets/2009/npd\\_natl\\_plan\\_scenario.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/media/factsheets/2009/npd_natl_plan_scenario.pdf)

# PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS

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- 1) Make a Home/Family Plan
- 2) Build a Disaster Kit
- 3) Be Aware - Be Informed



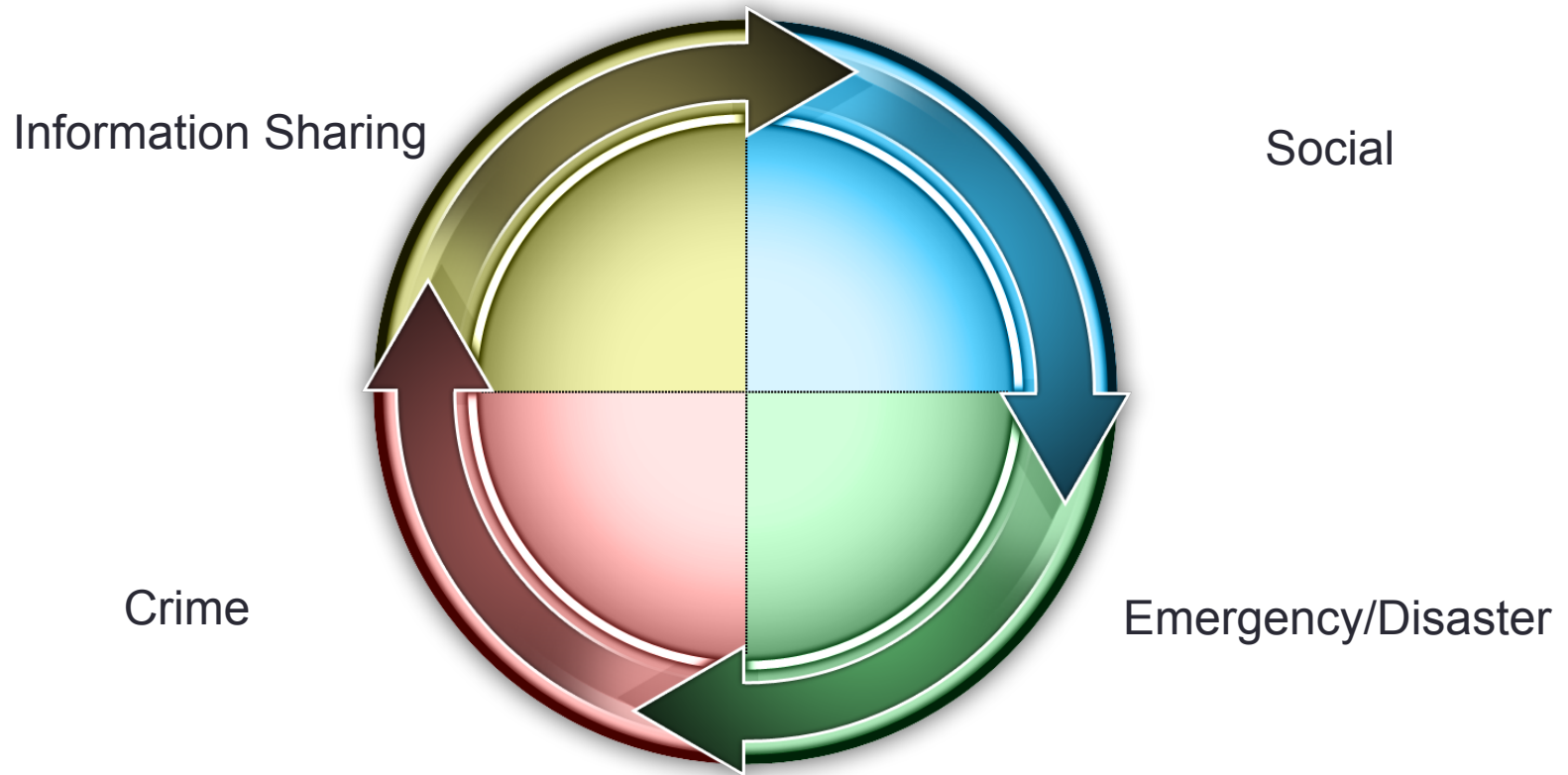
*The better prepared you and your neighbors are, the less of a burden is created on our limited first responder resources. This starts with CRIME.*

# Crime Prevention

- We have incorporated Neighborhood Watch (NHW) into the Block Preparedness Coordinator Program
- The key elements of NHW are
  - Neighbors getting to know neighbors
  - Be aware of your normal neighborhood activities
  - Be suspicious of activities or situations that are “unusual” or “out of the ordinary.”
  - Learn how to be a good witness
  - How & when to call the Police
  - Communicate with your neighbors
  - Learn security techniques & implement them



# BLOCK PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR





# WHAT IS A BPC? (Orange Vests)

- Block Preparedness Coordinators are the “all hazards version” of Neighborhood Watch
- Eyes and Ears for the Block
  - Social
  - Information Sharing
  - Crime Watch
  - Communicator in a Disaster
- Responsible for 10-35 residences or businesses
- Stay on block in emergency/disaster
- **They are issued radios by the Police Department that can communicate with the MEOC – very important resource! (Works when phones are out.)**



# COMMUNICATIONS



**The Palo Alto Police Department runs the 911 Dispatch Center (PSAP) for the City of Palo Alto and Stanford University, covering law enforcement, fire, medical, public works, City Utilities, and Animal Services, among others.**



# COMMUNICATIONS - 911



- What happens when I call 911?
- Location, Location, Location!
- Nature of Emergency
- Cell phone = may go to CHP





# POLICE NUMBERS

Emergency 9-1-1

Non-Emergency (24 Hrs) (650) 329-2413

Police Front Desk/  
General Information (650) 329-2406

Solicitor Permits,  
Block Parties (650) 329-2147

Anonymous tips can be e-mailed to [paloalto@tipnow.org](mailto:paloalto@tipnow.org) or sent via text message or voice mail to 650-383-8984.

# REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

- You are the “Eyes and Ears” for the police. Get involved and help by reporting crime.
- Be alert to unusual or suspicious behavior or activity. (No “suspicious people”).
- Be a good witness.
- Call 9-1-1, as soon as possible. Don’t hesitate by over-thinking it. We need the information as you see it.
- We want to know about suspicious activities in your neighborhood. You are the best person to know.
- Never place your personal safety or the safety of those around you in jeopardy when attempting to get a better description of a subject. Make a mental picture of the suspect(s) and the environment – or use your smart phone’s camera.

# GOOD WITNESS CHECKLIST

## Your Location

- Give the dispatcher your exact location.
- Allow the dispatcher to ask questions.
- Do not hang up until directed by the dispatcher.

## The Environment

- What is the suspicious activity?
- Where did it occur?
- When did it occur?

*View checklists & prevention tips on:*  
[www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/pol/crime\\_prevention.asp](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/pol/crime_prevention.asp)

# GOOD WITNESS CHECKLIST cont.

## Suspect

- Gender
- Approximate age
- Race
- Height and weight or build type
- Skin tone
- Clothing description (hat, coat, shirt, etc.)
- Hair color and style (including facial hair)
- Eye color and shape, glasses
- Tattoos, scars, birthmarks
- Weapons (gun, knife, stick, walking cane)
- Direction suspect fled to and how?
- Suspect's identity (if you know)
- Other distinguishing features

## Vehicle

- Remember the acronym  
“CYMBALS”
- C = Color of car
- Y = Year
- M = Make (Ford, BMW, Mini)
- B = Body
- A = Additional descriptive features
- L = License plate number
- S = State
- How many occupants?
- Last direction of travel.



# BURGLARY vs ROBBERY

- Burglary is the “unlawful or forcible entry or attempted entry into a residence” with the intent to commit a crime.
- Robbery is the felonious taking of personal property of another, from his person or immediate presence, and against his will, accomplished by means of force or fear.

# CRIMES OF OPPORTUNITY

- For the most part, if you can take away a criminal's opportunity, you can stop the crime. Most are cowards.
- An organized block/neighborhood is generally in a better position to deter, deny, delay criminal activity [if you are divided, you are more easily conquered].
- The more you do to keep your home from looking like an easy target, the safer the home usually is.
- **Lock It or Lose It:** In 2011, the confirmed point of entry in **36%** of the residential burglaries was through open or unlocked doors or windows. (May be as high at 64%!)

# ROBBERY: STREET PRECAUTION



- Be alert to your surroundings & the people around you
- Whenever possible, travel with a friend
- Stay in well lighted areas as much as possible
- Walk close to the curb. Avoid doorways, bushes and alleys
- Walk confidently, and at a steady pace
- Make eye contact with people when walking
- Do not respond to conversation from strangers on the street
- If you carry a purse, hold it securely between your arm & body
- Walk facing traffic
- If you feel you are in danger, don't be afraid to run or scream
- Keep your cell phone charged and activated

# PREVENTING HOME BURGLARY

## TARGET HARDENING





# SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **DOORS** - Entry doors should be solid wood or metal with properly installed doorframes
- **DOORS** - hinges on the inside, or if exposed, hinges should be secured with hidden, non-removable pins
- **DOORS** - All doors have a single-cylinder deadbolt, with a minimum of 1” bolt
- **DOORS** - Strike plate should be security quality
- **WINDOWS** - All windows have a working, locking mechanism
- **GATES** – Use steel padlock and hasp
- **LIGHTS** - All entry ways should be well lighted, including backyards. Consider **motion activated lights** or timers.
- **LANDSCAPING** – Trim plants from doors and windows for visibility
- **PROPERTY LIST** – Engrave valuable property (telephone number), photograph jewelry, art & collectibles, list serial numbers – take a video (insurance claims).

# DOORS AND LOCKS

- Change the locks when moving into a new residence
- Keep your doors locked at ALL times
- Consider having a wide-angle (180°) door viewer installed in the entry door
- NEVER hide a key outside (don't let burglars use your spare key)
- If you suspect your residence has been entered, DO NOT go in. Notify police immediately!

# WINDOWS

- Secure and lock windows when not in use and anytime you leave your residence
- Close blinds and curtains after dark
- Secure sliding patio doors and bathroom windows, etc. with a piece of wood (dowel stick) in the track
- Auxiliary locking devices can be used for added security
- Avoid advertising your expensive purchases

# SOLICITORS/ STRANGERS At YOUR DOOR

- Never open your door for a stranger
- If a delivery or repair person arrives without notice, do not let them into your home. Verify with their office
- Respond to the “knock” by talking through the door. By not responding, the person may assume no one is home – & they may try your doors or go around back ...
- In the City of Palo Alto, all solicitors are required to have a permit, issued by the PAPD. Ask to see it.
- Post a “No Solicitors” sign. It may reduce your contacts.



# PROTECTING YOUR VEHICLE



# AUTO BURGLARY PREVENTION

- If you have a garage, use it. Lock your garage door. Lock your vehicle even if it's in the garage.
- Don't bring attention to your car. It's an invitation to a break-in. Take valuables and GPS devices with you; place under the seat or lock them in the trunk.
- Always lock the doors.
- Park in well lighted and busy areas.
- Periodically, check your license plates to make sure they haven't been stolen, switched or altered.

# BE INFORMED

- Notifications from AlertSCC.com
- Emergency Alert System and other broadcasts from
  - KZSU – 90.1 FM (reminder: PAPD can “take over” this channel)
  - KCBS 740 AM / 106.9 FM
- If phones/internet fail, you need to know who has a connection to authorities (BPC, NPC) and that neighbors will be helping neighbors.
- Find out what are the emergency plans & procedures for your
  - ☐ neighborhood or residential facility
  - ☐ family members’ places of employment; schools
  - ☐ faith institution

# Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC)



**We have taken a substantial step forward in improving our operational readiness through the deployment of new technology. However, human resources – YOU – are the key to our success.**



# Questions?

[www.cityofpaloalto.org/ccc](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/ccc)



**Together  
We Prepare**

**Engaging the Whole Community  
in Emergency Planning**