

# Crime Prevention Bulletin

## May 2021



## Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

As the warm weather approaches many are looking forward to spring cleaning and outdoor work. However it is also a great opportunity to revisit and apply CPTED principles to your properties. CPTED utilizes the design of a physical environment to reduce the risk of criminal behaviour against your property.

Reducing risk against our properties is important for all Watch members. By using CPTED principles, we can create unwanted challenges for criminals and reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim.

**Here are some ways Watch members can utilize the main CPTED principles:**

**Surveillance** - To increase surveillance, Watch members can consider installing security cameras or motion detector lighting. Additionally, home and business owners can ensure there are no areas of concealment or obstructions to their line of sight around pathways, entrances or windows.

**Access Control** - Watch members should keep pathways maintained and create clear entry points which will direct visitors towards permitted areas. Utilizing physical barriers such as fencing or locked gates can help to eliminate the opportunity for others from accessing unauthorized areas or items.

**Territorial Reinforcement** - Watch members can demonstrate territorial reinforcement by regularly collecting any mail and packages, creating distinct boundaries between private and public property, or posting signage to deter unwanted entry. The goal should be to demonstrate that someone is keeping a close eye on the property and will react accordingly to crime.

**Maintenance** - A neglected area can invite deviant behaviour to occur. However, by keeping a well maintained property, this sends a message to others that the area is protected and well cared for. Keep up with maintenance in order to ensure all other CPTED principles are being maintained optimally.

CPTED is a proactive approach to crime prevention and is implemented in order to decrease the opportunity for success and increase risk of criminal failure. It is important to review these concepts regularly to ensure it is properly implemented in our Neighbourhood and Business Watches!

