

Business Crime Watch Program

Modeled after the Neighborhood Watch concept, Business Crime Watch seeks to reduce commercial crime and the fear of crime from both the customer's and the business owner's point of view. There are important concepts behind Business Crime Watch that business owners can use to prevent crime.

- ◆ Get to know the people who operate the neighboring residents and businesses — including schools, civic groups, libraries, and clubs. Making personal contact is the best way to get acquainted.
- ◆ Be alert and report suspicious behavior to law enforcement immediately, even if it means taking a chance on being wrong.
- ◆ Develop a telephone tree to share information with neighboring residents and businesses. Should a problem develop, each business is responsible for calling one or two others on the tree.
- ◆ Aggressively advertise the Business Watch group. Post signs and stickers saying that the neighboring block of businesses is organized to prevent crime by watching out for and rep



BEXAR COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Crime Prevention Unit

<http://www.bexar.org/sheriff/inspections.html>

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BUSINESS CRIME WATCH PROGRAM



BUSINESS CRIME WATCH PROGRAM IN FORCE

We report all suspicious activity to fellow merchants and the Bexar County Sheriff's Office

Business Safety & Awareness

Foundation for Prevention

Crime prevention is critically important to the success of a small business. Small firms are more vulnerable than large firms. Inventory, cash and other assets need to be guarded more closely. Small damages to large companies, such as shoplifting, can cause major losses to a small business. More destructive crime, such as theft or burglary, can sometimes cost a business everything. In order to prevent crimes from crippling a small business it is important for the business owner to recognize the potential for crimes against the business, hire and train employees properly, and install crime prevention mechanisms. These steps will help prevent impending crimes from impacting a business.



GOLD BADGE TIPS:

- ◆ **ESTABLISH & ENFORCE CLEAR POLICIES** about employee theft, employee substance abuse, crime reporting, opening and closing the business, and other security procedures.
- ◆ **KEEP WINDOWS CLEAR FROM CLUTTER**
Allow for visibility into the store
- ◆ **KEEP STORE & PARKING WELL LIGHTED** especially around doors, windows, skylights, or other entry/exit points. Consider installing covers over exterior lights and power sources to deter tampering.
- ◆ **KEEP THE CASH REGISTER IN PLAIN VIEW** from the outside of the business, so law enforcement can monitor it at all times. Leave it open and empty after closing.
- ◆ **SECURITY DOORS SHOULD BE METAL LINED** and secured with metal security crossbars. Pin all exposed hinges to prevent removal, install security hinges or peen hinge pins.
- ◆ **WINDOWS SHOULD HAVE SECURE LOCKS** and burglar-resistant glass. Consider installing metal grates on all windows except display windows.
- ◆ **INVEST IN AN ALARM SYSTEM**, check with several companies and decide what level of security fits the needs of the business. Learn how to use the system properly, check it daily, and run a test when closing.

Safety Report

SECURITY INSPECTION

Business owners may request a "Business Security Inspection" of your business by contacting the Bexar County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit. The Crime Prevention Unit has State Board Certified Crime Prevention Specialist that will perform a Day and Night time security assessment of your building, business practices, and neighborhood.

The Crime Prevention specialist will provide a written security assessment providing minimum and maximum safety recommendations.

The Gold Badge of Safety Approval lets the community know that you have taken measures to insure the safety of your customers and your community. In addition, it alerts criminals that you have taken the necessary precautions, alert to their activities, formed a line of communication with neighboring business and the Bexar County Sheriff's Office.

