

CRIME FIGHTER

The Safety Newsletter of the Oro Valley Police Department

First Quarter 2013

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www.ovpd.org

Cold Weather Safety Tips



- Have your central heating system inspected and serviced prior to the season's first use.
- Have a professional chimney sweep inspect your chimney and fireplace annually for cracks, blockages and leaks. Have it cleaned or repaired as needed.
- Burn only seasoned hardwood in your fireplace. Trash, cardboard boxes and related items burn unevenly and may contain toxins.
- Be sure that the flue (vent) is opened prior to lighting your fireplace.
- Place space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including furniture or curtains. Do not use them to dry clothing.
- Supervise children and pets at all times when space heaters or fireplaces are in use.
- Never use a gas or charcoal grill inside your home or a closed garage.
- Never leave a car with the motor running inside a closed space where exhaust fumes can not escape.
- Change the batteries in your smoke detectors! They are your early warning device for a fire in your home.
- Install and maintain smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors according to manufacturer's instructions!
- Be careful with candles – do not use candles for lighting if the power goes out. Use flashlights only.
- Inspect fireplaces and wood stoves yearly - use a sturdy fire screen with lit fires. Burn only wood - never burn paper or pine boughs.
- Use generators correctly – never operate a generator inside your home, including the basement or garage. Do not hook up a generator directly to your home's wiring. The safest thing to do is to connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator.
- Prevent frozen pipes - when the weather is very cold outside, open cabinet doors to let warm air circulate around water pipes. Let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing because the temperature of the water running through it is above freezing. Keep the thermostat set to a consistent temperature.
- Don't overload your electrical outlets.
- Don't forget your pets – bring them indoors. If you can't bring them inside, provide adequate shelter to keep them warm and make sure they can get to unfrozen water.
- If you plan on using an alternate heating source, never use a stove or oven to heat your home.
- Keep a glass or metal fire screen around the fireplace and never leave a fireplace fire unattended.



Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

By Robert A. Gardner, CPP

The CPTED Concept

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, or CPTED (pronounced sep-ted), is a relatively new concept. The idea of using the physical environment as protection against attack may date back to the cavemen. However, it wasn't until recently that the problem of creating a defensive environment was approached from both the physical and the psychological aspects at the same time. This blend of disciplines is the essence of the CPTED concept.

The goal of CPTED is the reduction of opportunities for crime to occur. This reduction is achieved by employing physical design features that discourage crime, while at the same time encouraging legitimate use of the environment.

CPTED also makes possible designs that offer protection without resorting to the prison camp approach to security. Use of fortress-type construction is minimized, and where necessary, integrated into the overall design, reducing negative visual impact. This approach is also cost-effective, since hardware applications are made during construction rather than added at a later date.

To understand fully how CPTED is used, one must examine its components and the philosophy behind them. Although crime prevention through design is itself relatively new, its individual elements are common security techniques. The uniqueness and success of CPTED stems from the manner in which these techniques are integrated with, and applied to, the architectural design process.

Gardner further explains the five elements of CPTED: Defensible Space, Territoriality, Surveillance Landscaping, Physical Security and Lighting. In this issue of the Crime Fighter we will explore "Lighting". You may have seen KGUN 9 news that aired on November 7, 2012. Walking in fear: One woman's plea to light a dark parking lot (<http://www.kgun9.com/news/local/177800801.html>)

Lighting

Good lighting is one of the most effective crime deterrents. When used properly, light discourages criminal activity, enhances natural surveillance opportunities, and reduces fear.

The type and quantity of light required will vary from application to application, but the goal remains the same in all cases. To the degree possible, a constant level of light providing reasonably good visibility should be maintained at night. The absolute level of light, provided it meets minimum standards, is less critical than the evenness of the light. Bright spots and shadows should be avoided. Highly vulnerable areas and those that could conceal a potential attacker should be illuminated more brightly than areas designed for normal activity. The object is to light up the criminal without spotlighting the victim.

As used in CPTED, lighting also plays a part in creating a feeling of territoriality. Lighting can influence an individual's feelings about his environment from an aesthetic as well as a safety standpoint. A bright, cheerful environment is much more pleasing than one that appears dark and lifeless. The ability to feel good about one's environment is important in developing a sense of pride and ownership.



After CPTED

Before CPTED

Telemarketing Fraud

Here are some warning signs of telemarketing fraud—what a caller may tell you:

- “You must act ‘now’ or the offer won’t be good.”
 - “You’ve won a ‘free’ gift, vacation, or prize.” But you have to pay for “postage and handling” or other charges.
 - “You must send money, give a credit card or bank account number, or have a check picked up by courier.”
- You may hear this before you have had a chance to consider the offer carefully.
- “You can’t afford to miss this ‘high-profit, no-risk’ offer.”

If you hear these or similar “lines” from a telephone salesperson, just say “no thank you” and hang up the telephone.

Tips for Avoiding Telemarketing Fraud:

Before you buy anything by telephone, remember:

- Don’t buy from an unfamiliar company. Legitimate businesses understand that you want more information about their company and are happy to comply. .
- Always check out unfamiliar companies with your local consumer protection agency, Better Business Bureau, state attorney general, the National Fraud Information Center, or other watchdog groups. Unfortunately, not all bad businesses can be identified through these organizations.
- Obtain a salesperson’s name, business identity, telephone number, street address, mailing address, and business license number before you transact business. Some con artists give out false names, telephone numbers, addresses, and business license numbers. Verify the accuracy of these items.
- Before you give money to a charity or make an investment, find out what percentage of the money is paid in commissions and what percentage actually goes to the charity or investment.
- Before you send money, ask yourself a simple question. “What guarantee do I really have that this solicitor will use my money in the manner we agreed upon?”
- Don’t pay in advance for services. Pay services only after they are delivered.
- Be wary of companies that want to send a messenger to your home to pick up money, claiming it is part of their service to you. In reality, they are taking your money without leaving any trace of who they are or where they can be reached.
- Always take your time making a decision. Legitimate companies won’t pressure you to make a snap decision.
- Don’t pay for a “free prize.” If a caller tells you the payment is for taxes, he or she is violating federal law.
- Be sure to talk over big investments offered by telephone salespeople with a trusted friend, family member, or financial advisor. It’s never rude to wait and think about an offer.

- Never respond to an offer you don’t understand thoroughly.
- Never send money or give out personal information such as credit card numbers and expiration dates, bank account numbers, dates of birth, or social security numbers to unfamiliar companies or unknown persons.
- Be aware that your personal information is often brokered to telemarketers through third parties.
- If you have been victimized once, be wary of persons who call offering to help you recover your losses for a fee paid in advance.
- If you have information about a fraud, report it to state, local, or federal law enforcement agencies.

Identity Theft

Identity theft occurs when someone assumes your identity to perform a fraud or other criminal act.

Criminals can get the information they need to assume your identity from a variety of sources, including by stealing your wallet, rifling through your trash, or by compromising your credit or bank information. They may approach you in person, by telephone, or on the Internet and ask you for the information.

The sources of information about you are so numerous that you cannot prevent the theft of your identity. But you can minimize your risk of loss by following a few simple hints.

Tips for Avoiding Identity Theft:

- Never throw away ATM receipts, credit statements, credit cards, or bank statements in a usable form.
- Never give your credit card number over the telephone unless you make the call.
- Reconcile your bank account monthly, and notify your bank of discrepancies immediately.
- Keep a list of telephone numbers to call to report the loss or theft of your wallet, credit cards, etc.
- Report unauthorized financial transactions to your bank, credit card company, and the police as soon as you detect them.
- Review a copy of your credit report at least once each year. Notify the credit bureau in writing of any questionable entries and follow through until they are explained or removed.
- If your identity has been assumed, ask the credit bureau to print a statement to that effect in your credit report.
- If you know of anyone who receives mail from credit card companies or banks in the names of others, report it to local or federal law enforcement authorities.

Information provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigations.



Oro Valley Police Department

Presents

Citizen Academy

Understanding Through Education

The Oro Valley Citizen Academy is a 36-hour block of instruction designed to give the public knowledge of the OVPD. It consists of twelve classes, taught by sworn police personnel and civilian staff who work in the different divisions. The instruction is comprehensive and each week a different area of the department is covered, including many activities:

- Experience a ride-along
- See a S.W.A.T. demo
- Watch the K-9 in action
- Hear about criminal investigations
- Meet Oro Valley officers and understand their work

The goal is to provide the citizens enough information to dispel suspicions and misconceptions and to increase rapport through an educational process. The citizens, in turn, enable the officers and civilian staff to learn of their feelings and concerns. The hope is that the graduates of each Citizen Academy will take their new knowledge out into the community, educate others when the opportunity arises and make good decisions, which affect the Police Department and the Town with heightened awareness and better information. Together we can build a safer, stronger community.

When: Every Tuesday, February 12, 2013 - April 30, 2013

Time: 6 – 9 p.m.

Where: Oro Valley Police Tangerine Substation, 1920 E. Tangerine Road

- There is limited seating available, so sign up today
- Make a commitment to attend the majority of classes
- Free of charge
- CVAP personnel are encouraged to attend
- Must be at least 18 years of age

For more information, or to register, contact Ofc. Jodi Stevens,
at (520) 229-2900 or jstevens@orovalleyaz.gov

Mark Your Calendar

Shred-A-Thon

April 27
November TBA

Dispose-A-Med

February 16
April 27
June 15
August 17
October 12
December 7

National Night Out

October 4

Safe Treats

October 31

OV Holiday Parade

December 14

New Patrol Vehicles

Have you seen the new patrol vehicles throughout your community? 2011 marks the end of an era of a traditional police car since the Ford Motor Company stopped producing the legendary Crown Victoria Police Interceptor. Police departments nationwide have had to make a decision as to what platform works best for their respective agencies.

There is no "one size fits all" when it comes to police cars. Each agency must evaluate the available data and select which makes the most sense for the communities served. The Oro Valley Police Department evaluated the Chevrolet Caprice, Chevrolet Impala, Dodge Charger, Ford Explorer and the Ford Taurus which is marketed as the replacement to the Crown Victoria. After careful considerations, extensive research and testing, a decision was made. Based on vehicle cost throughout the life of ownership, officer comfort, safety and universal functionality, OVPD has selected the Chevrolet Tahoe as the next generation of police vehicle for our community. Currently, OVPD owns eight Tahoes and plans to purchase additional units as the need arises and existing Crown Victorias are retired.

Fun Fact

Why Do You Get Brain Freeze?

By Kendra Cherry, About.com

Have you ever wondered why you get "brain freeze" when you eat something cold such as ice cream or a milkshake? That sudden pain in your forehead is known in medicine as sphenopalatine ganglioneuralgia, and occurs because the abrupt change in temperature in the tissue at the roof of your mouth causes blood vessels to quickly swell in an effort to warm the area back up.

About.com's Guide to Chemistry, Anne Marie Helmenstine, Ph.D., explains, "The dilation of the blood vessels triggers pain receptors, which release pain-causing prostaglandins, increase sensitivity to further pain, and produce inflammation while sending signals through the trigeminal nerve to alert the brain to the problem. Because the trigeminal nerve also senses facial pain, the brain interprets the pain signal as coming from the forehead. This is called 'referred pain' since the cause of the pain is in a different location from where you feel it."

To get rid of brain freeze, warm the area by sipping something warm, pressing your tongue on the roof of your mouth, or hold your breath for 30 seconds. These are not proven scientific methods.



The new patrol Tahoe.



Contact Information

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