

Preventing Crime

City of Hill Country Village

Presentation by

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Crime Prevention Officer*

*Town Hall Meeting
March 28, 2006*

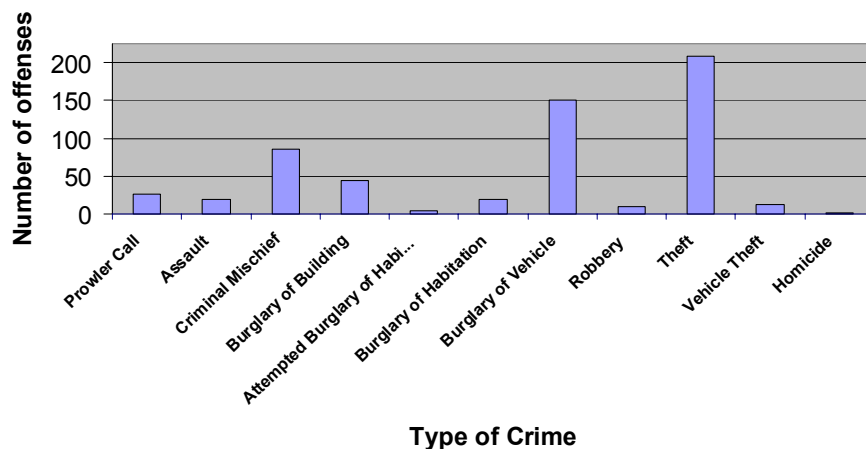


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History of crime in HCV

Crime Stats 2000-2005



Common Questions

- How often are homes burglarized? Since the year 2000, we have had 16 homes burglarized and 2 attempted burglaries. Burglary of Habitation calls account for 3 percent of the total crime calls in HCV
- How often are vehicles stolen or burglarized? This is our second most prevalent crime, we have had 150 burglaries of vehicles, and 7 theft of vehicles since 2000
- How often do crimes of violence occur? There have been 13 reported cases of violent crime since 2000. These calls consist of anything from assault to homicide



Lights, timer, action!

Interior lighting



- Interior lights on timers are good as long as the timer varies in start and end time
- Set up of timers on stereos, TVs, etc?
- Other recordings?



Lights, timer, action!

Exterior lighting

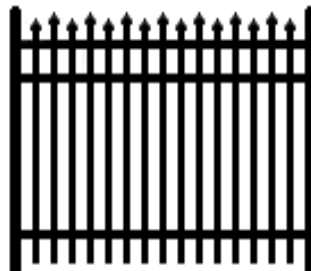
- Exterior lighting is effective when illuminating all possible entry points to the home
- Motion activated lights may deter but are more likely activated by a deer or other animals



Keep Out!

Fences and gates

- Security vs. Privacy
- Emergency accessibility
- Visibility of the home



CPTED

- Crime
- Prevention
- Through
- Environmental
- Design



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To see, or not to see...

Home Visibility



- Can you see the road through these shrubs?
- Chances are, the police and other emergency departments can't see you either



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To see, or not to see...

Home Visibility



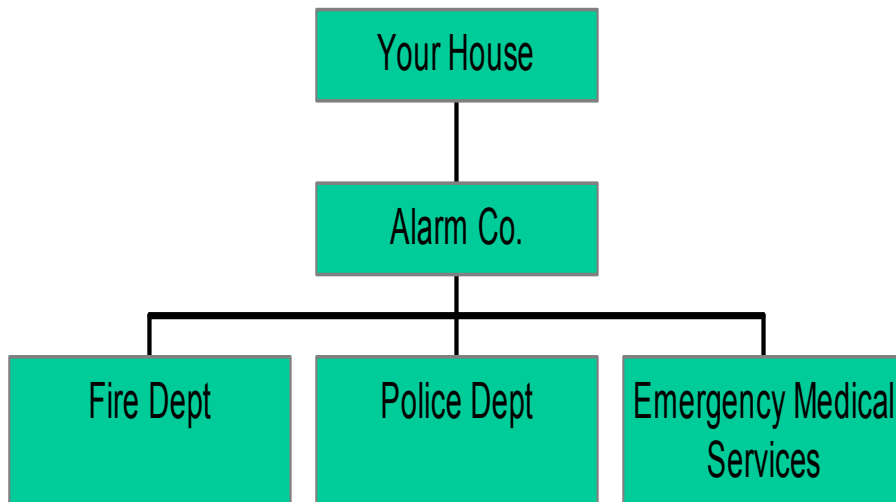
- Landscaping should not obstruct the view of doors and windows
- Landscaping should not provide a hiding place for a criminal



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Alarm notification process



Home Alarm Systems

Pros/Cons

Pros

- Notifies appropriate entity when needed
- Actively protects your house when you are not there
- Deters thieves
- Possible insurance discounts
- Peace of mind

Cons

- Can have long time delays before notification
- May malfunction if power is off
- Too many false alarms can cost you



Home Alarm Systems

Vulnerability of Effectiveness

- Loss of power
- Loss of communication (*disabled phone line*)
- Manipulation of alarm computer by professional criminal (*system can be altered from outside of the house*)
- Complacency of home owner
 - frequent distribution access codes



Doors and Windows

Recommendations

- There are many exterior doors on the market that offer the same quality security as popular metal doors
- Deadbolt locks need to be installed on all exterior doors
 - Deadbolt locks should have at least a one inch throw (bolt)
 - If the door contains a glass window, a double cylinder lock with key should be used



Doors and Windows

Sliding Glass Doors

- Metal screws should be added to the frame, on the inside, every ten inches
 - Insures the frame is not lifted and removed
- Secondary locks should be used
 - *Security pin caution
 - Careful placement is required in order to miss the glass



Money safe vs. Fire safe

- Shape of door
- Protection offered
- Affordability



Money safe vs. Fire safe

Recommendation

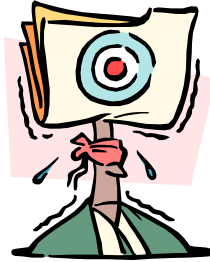
- Use a fire safe in the home to store the special items you don't want at your bank
- Make sure you can remember where your hiding place is



Firearms and Home Defense

CALL THE POLICE FIRST

- This decision is one that you will have to make on your own
- Texas law allows for the protection of life or loss of property from your home
- Guns in the house could be used against you



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CALL THE POLICE FIRST

When arriving home, if you notice your house was burglarized, CALL THE POLICE Immediately by dialing 911 or 335-6000

- Don't go inside, go to a safe location until police have checked the house
- If someone is in the house, get away and call the police as soon as possible



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Protection

Home

- Adequate exterior lighting
- Proper primary and secondary door locks
- Proper primary and secondary window locks
- Proper home visibility by removing shrubs and other overgrown landscaping



Protection

Property Inside The Home

- Secure all high dollar valuables in a bank safe deposit box, or a personal home safe
- Mark all electronics with an identifiable serial number or mark to assist in the recovery of the items if they are stolen
 - Do not use social security or driver's license numbers
- Photograph valuable items
 - Include the serial number in the picture if possible
- Keep valuables out of sight
- Maintain a security system for the house



Common Prevention Mistakes

- Leaving a door or window open
- Leaving a door or window unlocked
- Failure to maintain a home security system
- Exposing valuables in view of public
- General complacency



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Out of Town Services Available

Typically, your home and possessions are most vulnerable when you are not at home.

The police department has an Out of Town/Patrol By program to assist residents in preventing crimes while they are out of town or on long periods away from the home.



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Accessing the Program

- There are three options to access the program if you are going to be out of town
 1. Log onto the City of Hill Country Village's website at www.hcv.org,
 2. Call City Hall at 494-3671
 3. Visit City Hall
- What happens when you are gone?
 - Officers regularly patrol your home to visibly check its security



Accessing the Program, cont.

- Once you return it is important you notify the police department on your arrival. Officers have been known to sneak up on a few residents who failed to call when they returned
- Additionally, you will receive a letter further explaining the program's details during your absence that lists the dates and times the officers checked your home



Out of Town Tips

- Remember to stop delivery of your news paper, mail, and any other deliveries
- Arrange for a neighbor or family member to come by each day to pick up any unexpected mail or delivery items
- Make sure your alarm system is functioning properly. Check the battery backup for the alarm system
- Secure valuables in a bank vault or safe
- Make sure you can be reached in case you are needed



Out of Town Tips, cont.

- Get an extra set of eyes by notifying your neighbors to keep an eye on the house
- Park your vehicles inside the garage and lock the garage doors from the inside
- Don't schedule maintenance or cleaning work on the house while you are gone
- Lastly, take advantage of the free Out of Town/Patrol By program provided to you by the Hill Country Village Police Department



Security Survey Service Available

In-depth security survey performed by the City of Hill Country Village Police Department. Benefits include:

- Recommendations for improving your home security, inside and out
- Possibility of up to **20% discount** on homeowners insurance premiums



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Crime Prevention Services Available

- Out of Town/Patrol By program
- Home security survey
- Business security survey
- Engraving devices available for etching electronics
- Information seminars available upon request
- Child identification services
- Neighborhood watch programs



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Contact Information

For more information on the material presented in this presentation or to learn more about any of the services available, please contact:

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494-3671 ext. 23

