

# Preventing Crime

## City of Hill Country Village

Presentation by

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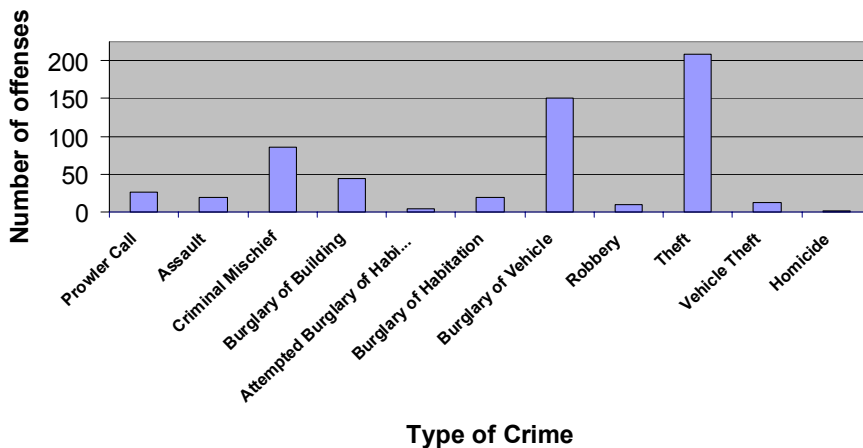


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## History of crime in HCV

**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*

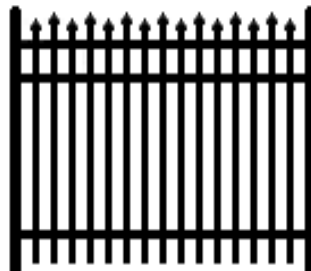
- Exterior lighting is effective when illuminating all possible entry points to the home
- Motion activated lights may deter but are more likely activated by a deer or other animals



## 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*



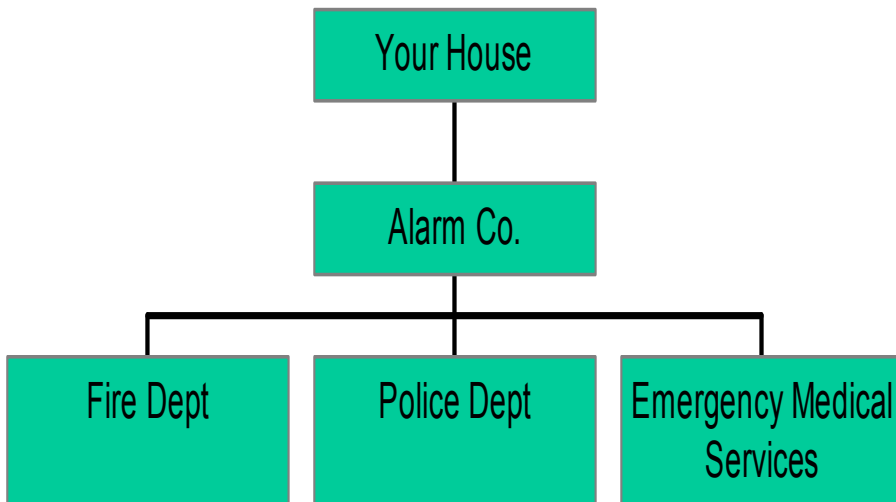
- Landscaping should not obstruct the view of doors and windows
- Landscaping should not provide a hiding place for a criminal



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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

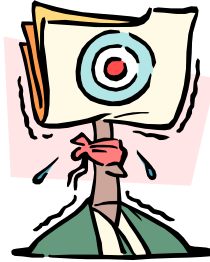




## Firearms and Home Defense

### 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](http://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:

Officer Ben Richard  
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494-3671 ext. 23

