



Our Mission

The mission of the Bonner County Sheriff's Office Community Watch Program is to proactively partner with law abiding citizens to prevent and reduce crime. This will be accomplished through communication, crime prevention education and assisting communities, neighborhoods and businesses in achieving a safe environment for its residents.

Thank you for stepping up in your area of Bonner County and taking a leadership position in your local community watch group.

As of this writing we have 62 groups, 82 Neighborhood Captains, and 1,250 members

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY & HALLOWEEN TIPS

Depending on whether you're taking your kids to school or just driving through a school zone, or if your kids walk or bike to school, you can help do your part to keep kids safe.

- Stay alert in the residential neighborhoods and school zones and drive slowly.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly.
- Stay alert looking for kids at intersections, on medians and curbs.
- Watch for children near or on the road and also after school hours.
- Concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Reduce any distractions inside your car, such as your phone, and don't talk or text while driving.

Children should cross streets with an adult until the age of 10. They should cross the street at corners, using traffic signal and crosswalks. Remind them to never run out into the street or cross in between parked

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The Crime Triangle



In the Crime Prevention World, we refer often to the Crime Triangle. Unlike a circle “that can’t be broken,” the triangle can.

The theory simplified is that society can’t control one’s **Criminal Desire**, as pictured on the triangle. However, one can control the **Opportunity** given to the **Criminal desire**. If we remove the **Opportunity**, we remove the **Victim**.

What does removing the **Opportunity** look like? It can be some of the most basic things to do around your home, your business and your vehicle:

- Ensure your valuables are removed from your vehicle at all times.
- Secure your home – front and back.
- Use secondary locks on windows and sliding doors.
- Never leave your garage door open – it’s a candy store to the property criminal.
- Never give out your personal information over the phone.
- Be wise when making purchases over the internet – buyer beware!

By removing these opportunities, we don’t become a **Victim**, therefore breaking the triangle and moving the **Criminal Desire** onto somewhere else.

Stay alert and use good judgment by knowing whom and what is around you at all times. You can avoid becoming an easy target.

October is Crime Prevention Month

Every day is a good day to fight crime, but did you know that October is crime prevention month?

Since 1984, October has been designated as the month to spotlight what we can do to reduce the likelihood of crime from happening to us.

The fact of the matter is crime prevention is everybody’s business; the responsibility doesn’t just belong to our men and women in blue. We are all responsible for what goes on in our neighborhoods and communities.

Let October be the month that you, your family and neighbors reflect: Educate yourselves and take the action that is needed to reduce the chances of becoming a victim. Safeguard your home.

Safeguard your home by installing deadbolts with 1” inch throws into all wood or metal entry doors. Ensure locks on windows are working properly, replace cracked or broken windows and bent screens. Drop sticks in the tracks of your sliding glass doors and windows as an extra lock precaution.

Replace batteries in fire alarms and exchange or replace missing or broken lightbulbs on front and back porches.

Take a weekend and mark your property. Engravers are available to borrow from the Bonner County Sheriff’s Office.

If you don’t already have one, consider getting a home security system. Trim trees and shrubs to prevent a hiding place from criminals and become allies with your neighbors in keeping crime out of your neighborhoods.

Talk to your neighbors about the benefits of sharing information such as home and work phone numbers to communicate when someone or something suspicious is around your homes.

Watch Captains Questions and Answers

This newsletter is as much yours as it is the Community Watch Program. As such we want to ensure you have an opportunity to ask questions and get answers to issues you may have. The questions will remain anonymous but the issues and discussions will be an important part of our communication and education process.

Call or email your question to Sheryl Kins at sheryl.kins@bonnercountyid.gov. It will then become part of the next newsletter.

Question: I understand that Watch Captains can meet with Captain Hemphill or Lt. Riffle. How does this work?

Answer: You are correct.

Once a month Captain Hemphill and/or Lt. Riffle and/or Sergeant will be available, by appointment, at 1:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month to meet with any Watch Captain(s) to address specific issues to their neighborhoods or other concerns.

Contact Sheryl Kins at 208-263-8714 for more information.



cars. Tell them to make sure they always walk in front of the bus, where the driver can see them.

Halloween will be arriving soon, so be sure to keep safety in mind, taking extra time to look for children on streets, intersections and dirt roads.

Children should trick-or-treat with an adult, if they are under the age of 12. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, they should stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups. Use reflective tape or stickers on costumes and bags. Also, it's better to use face paint and makeup instead of masks (which can obstruct a child's vision.) Have the child carry a flashlight or glow sticks (they can be seen better by drivers).

On Halloween, children are excited and may move in different directions, or dart out in the street, so be sure to slow down and be especially alert. Anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic, turn your headlights on earlier in the day to see children from greater distances. Trick-or-treating popular hours are usually from 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm, so be especially alert during those times.

It's also a good idea to keep pets inside, as pranksters can cause injury or even death to an animal around this scary and fun time.



Humor in Uniform

A police officer called the station on his radio. "I have an interesting case here.

An old lady shot her husband for stepping on the wet floor she just mopped."

The dispatcher asked "Have you arrested the woman?"

The officer replied, "Not yet, the floor is still wet !"

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Ole applied for a job at the police department. He was given test after test, but could not pass any of them.

The police captain, who was Ole's brother-in-law, had promised Ole's wife Lena he'd get Ole into the department. So, he decided to give one more test, which only had one question: "Who shot Lincoln?"

Ole replied, "Cell, I don't know dat."

"Look," said the police captain. "Take this question home and study it. Maybe when you come back tomorrow, you'll know the answer."

That night, Lena asked Ole if he'd gotten the job. Ole answered proudly, "Ya, I tink I did because dey've already go me vorking on a murder case!"



PERSONAL VEHICLE SAFETY

- Before getting into your vehicle, check the back seat.
- Do not TEXT and drive.
- Keep your car doors locked at all times when driving.
- **Do not** immediately open your door or get out of the car if hit from behind. It may be a trick to steal your vehicle. Stay calm and get your bearings.
- If someone needs help, is flagging you down, or if there is an accident on the highway; **CALL 911**.
- Consider a locking gas cap, and installing an alarm system.
- Do not give rides, or be tempted to accept rides from strangers.
- Never leave your car running and unoccupied.
- Never leave keys in the car.
- Keep your spare keys in a safe place.
- Shut your garage door when you are not in your garage.
- Avoid parking in isolated or dark areas.
- Write down all your vehicle information and keep it in a safe place other than in your vehicle. *(If stolen there will not be a delay in reporting due to lack of information)*