

## **BAKERSFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:** A community based crime prevention program through which citizens, in concert with law enforcement, work to reduce the opportunity for crime in their neighborhoods. This national program fosters familiarity and "neighborliness" for the express purpose of getting neighbors to look out for one another on a regular basis.

**THE CRIME FREE MULTI-HOUSING PROGRAM:** A nationally recognized program that has consistently proven to be an effective tool to help managers, owners and tenants keep illegal activity out of their rental property. This program is designed to encourage cooperation with different city agencies and improve the "quality of living" on their properties.

**BAKERSFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME ANALYSIS:** The goal of the Bakersfield Police Department's new Crime Analysis Unit is to collect and analyze statistical crime information in order to protect and meet the needs of the community, and implement a mapping program for in-depth analysis. Crime analysis allows the analyst to determine who's doing what to whom by focusing on crimes against persons and property (homicide, rape, robbery, burglary, theft, etc.).

**E-WATCH:** Welcome to the Bakersfield Police Department's E-Watch Program! This site was originally reserved for members of the police department's Neighborhood Watch Program, and now includes members of our Business Watch, Banks, Merchants and Auto Dealers. The site allows our citizens and the Police Department to communicate via the internet and to exchange information and crime prevention strategies in hopes of creating a safer environment and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods and community.

**MONTHLY E-TIP NETWORK:** Want safety tips on how not to become a victim and how to keep your loved ones safe? Keeping our community safe is everyone's responsibility and arming citizens with valuable information is one way to do just that. Via the internet, members are sent monthly crime prevention tips and alerts that will be beneficial not only to them, but can be shared with their neighbors, friends and family members.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS:** One out of every four women in this country will suffer some kind of violence at the hands of her husband or boyfriend. Very few will tell anyone – not a friend, a relative, a neighbor or the police. Victims of domestic violence come from all walks of life. They share feelings of helplessness, isolation guilt, fear and shame. The Domestic Violence Awareness presentation will help you understand the dynamics of "DV" and what to do if you, or someone you know is a victim.

**OPERATION IDENTIFICATION:** Operation Identification is a citizen's burglary prevention program for use in homes. The Operation ID program involves the marking of property with an identifying number as a means of discouraging burglary and theft. In communities where it has been properly implemented, Operation ID has shown dramatic results in its ability to reduce burglaries.

**PERSONAL SAFETY:** A "common sense" approach to the issue of safety for any person. The presentation includes recognizing and avoiding dangerous situations, easily applied methods to increase safety.

**BAKERSFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORING:**

The Bakersfield Police Department's Explorer Program is an extension of the Boy Scouts of America. The program provides an opportunity for young men and women to experience first-hand how a police department functions and what it takes to get started in a challenging career in law enforcement.

**BAKERSFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT TOURS:** Tours of the police department are available to groups of 30 people or less. This scheduled tour includes an up close and personal look inside the Bakersfield Police Department.

**BUSINESSES WATCH:** Education is the key to developing an effective relationship between law enforcement and the business community. The police department's crime prevention unit offers a comprehensive program designed to provide guidelines for total business security. Employees are taught effective communication with the police department, how to recognize suspicious activity and when to make that call to the police department.

**ROBBERY PREVENTION:** Banks and businesses must face the possibility of robbery on their premises realistically and they should give security training for their employees a high priority. This popular crime prevention program provides training for employees on the latest methods of robbery prevention, which will not only improve their safety, but also their ability to provide information that could help in the apprehension of a criminal.

**FRAUD, FORGERY AND COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY:** Learn the latest technology and training used to protect your business from fraud and counterfeit currency. Crime Prevention staff provide a hands-on training for your employees. By using UV light technology, you will learn how to spot counterfeit driver's licenses, credit cards, passports, traveler's checks, money orders and currency. Training also includes information on the police department's "Thumbs Down Against Check Fraud" program. Participants in the Thumbs Down program will receive Free ink pads and signs for their businesses.

**SHOPLIFTING:** The typical business person is not trained to observe and recognize the signs of a shoplifter at "work." The forty-five minute shoplift prevention program is designed to educate employees on methods shoplifters use and possible behavior patterns to be aware of. The comprehensive program also educates employees about new trends and techniques used in the growing world of Organized Retail Theft rings. Each employee will receive a handbook which contains not only the telltale signs but legal steps to apprehension and prosecution.

**CONS, SCAMS, AND FRAUDS:** Nobody would fall for a fraud if it looked like a fraud. So, most of the time this crime looks like something else, perhaps a good deal, a business opportunity, a gift, or a chance to make a quick buck. Fraud works because people don't recognize it until it's too late. To stop fraud, you've got to know it when you see it. Information provided in this program help you familiarize yourself

with some of the “red flags” to look for, such as: “the sales pitch”, fraudulent phone soliciting, high pressure advances and so on.

**IDENTITY THEFT:** Recent increases of identity theft and fraudulent use of credit cards have increased the need education provided in this program.

**VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE:** Safety is a must in the workplace. Workplace violence or the threat of violence against workers can occur at or outside your place of business and can range from threats and verbal abuse to physical assaults. However, it manifests, workplace violence is a growing concern for employers and employees nationwide. The presentation includes recognizing a potential threat and effective methods to diffuse potentially hazardous situations. This program addresses internal as well as external threats to your business.

### **Children’s Crime Prevention Education**

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**9-1-1 SIMULATOR PROGRAM:** This program is designed to teach children about the 9-1-1 system and how to use it. With the help of a 9-1-1 simulator which was donated to the Bakersfield Police Department by State Farm Insurance, children are taught to recognize just what an "emergency" is and what action to take should they be faced with such a situation. Emphasis is placed on each child learning his/her telephone number and address. Children are then given the opportunity to practice their new skills by “placing a call to the police department” using the interactive 9-1-1 simulator.

**MCGRUFF PUPPET PROGRAM:** This interactive puppet program is designed to educate young children how to keep themselves safe. McGruff, the National Crime Prevention Council’s crime fighting symbol, along with a Bakersfield Police Department Community Service Specialist teach children a variety of basic crime prevention tools.

**SAFE ESCAPE:** A nationally recognized child abduction prevention and evasion program designed to teach families critical survival tactics. The program teaches practical techniques in a manner that is neither frightening nor threatening. The program teaches children to recognize common lures used by would-be abductors and then hands- on training which is presented using a variety of techniques for getting away.

**MISSING:** One in five children has been solicited by an adult online. Yet, most children are convinced that they could never be fooled by an online predator. The Missing Computer game places the child into the role of a police officer who has been asked to find a missing teenager, “Zack”, who has runaway to San Diego to meet with someone he has met online. By following the clues and playing the “game” children learn first hand just how easy it might be to fall for an online predator’s advances.

**CHILD SAFETY SEATS:** Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of unintentional death and injury to young children. Statistics show nearly 95% of children are not properly restrained. This percentage is gathered from hundreds of parents who have voluntarily allowed certified technicians to check their child restraints. Reasons for this high percentage are due to the fact that not every child is in a safety seat every time he or she rides in a vehicle. Another reason is due to misuse which includes poor choice

of type of restraint, incorrect installation, and improper use of child safety seat and/or seat belts. The Crime Prevention Unit currently offers free car seat checks on Thursdays between the hours of 9am and 6pm by appointment only call (661) 326-3052.

**SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES: (MYSFACE, FRIENDSTER, FACEBOOK, ETC.):** Social networking sites are the hippest “meet market” around, especially among tweens, teens, and 20-somethings. These sites encourage and allow people to exchange personal information. The use of blogs, chat rooms, email or instant messaging are also popular tools young people use to communicate with the world at large. But while they can increase a person’s circle of friends, they can also increase exposure to people who have less than friendly intentions, including sexual predators. This program teaches parents and children the importance of open communication at home and also precautionary practices to ensure they don’t become victims.

### **Crime Prevention Programs / Senior Citizens**

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**SENIOR CITIZEN SAFETY:** With the rapidly growing senior citizen population, education on general safety for seniors and people with disabilities is a must. Latest figures indicate that persons age 50 or older control 70% of the total net worth of U.S. households. The latest scams and methods that are being used to con our elderly population out of life savings are also taught during this presentation.

**ELDER ABUSE:** Participants in this program learn how to recognize red flags or indicators when someone may be a victim of elder abuse. Elder abuse may include physical or financial abuse. This program is designed to bring awareness to this ever growing and unfortunately unrecognized problem.