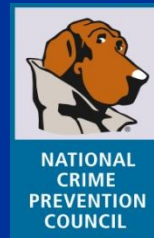


# Crime Prevention Basics

National Crime Prevention Council  
2007



# NCPC's Mission

To be the nation's leader in helping  
people keep themselves, their  
families, and their communities safe  
from crime

# BJA's Mission

To provide leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support local, state, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities.

# Goal of This Presentation

To examine the history of crime prevention and how it has evolved and give participants tips and best practices on how to stay safe in a variety of settings.

# Objectives

- Examine the definitions of crime prevention.
- Review the history of crime prevention and how it has adapted over the years.
- Differentiate between reactive and proactive policing.
- Discover how to implement the 10 Action Principles of crime prevention in your community.

# Objectives (continued)

- Learn the benefits of crime prevention.
- Learn why examining crime prevention trends can aid in preventing crime.
- List the 4 Ds of crime prevention.
- Explore the best practices of crime prevention.
- Learn how to gain support from community stakeholders for crime prevention efforts.

# Crime Prevention



- Definition
- History
- Principles
- Trends

# Traditional Definition of Crime Prevention

Crime prevention is the anticipation, recognition, and appraisal of a crime risk and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it.

*Source: National Crime Prevention Institute, 1972*





# Crime Prevention Redefined

Crime prevention is a pattern of attitudes and behaviors directed at reducing the threat of crime and enhancing the sense of safety and security, to positively influence the quality of life in our society, and to develop environments where crime cannot flourish.

*Source: National Crime Prevention Council, 1990*



# Evolution of Crime Prevention



Sir Robert Peel was considered to be the father of law enforcement.

# Evolution of Crime Prevention

## The Metropolitan Act of 1829

“The primary object of an efficient police is the prevention of crime: The next is that of detection and punishment of offenders if a crime is committed.”

*Sir Richard Mayne, Metropolitan Police Commissioner  
1829–1868*

National Crime Prevention Council



# Sir Robert Peel's Nine Principles of Policing

1. The basic mission of the police is to prevent crime and disorder.
2. The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon public approval of police actions.
3. Police must secure the willing cooperation of the public.
4. The degree of cooperation of the public that can be secured diminishes proportionally to the necessity of the use of force.



# Sir Robert Peel's Nine Principles of Policing (continued)

5. Police seek and preserve public favor.
6. Police use physical force to the extent necessary.
7. Police at all times should maintain a relationship with the public.
8. Police should always direct their actions strictly toward their functions.
9. The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder.

# Historical Developments in Crime Prevention

- In the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, emphasis on prevention decreased.
- After World War II, crime prevention experienced a rebirth in England.
- In the 1960s and early 1970s, police agencies gradually began looking to mechanical prevention or “target hardening.”
- In the mid-1970s to 1990s, focus shifted.

# Crime Prevention Approaches: Reactive Versus Proactive Policing

- Most common activities of a modern police force are still *reactive*.
  - Police react after a crime has occurred
  - Investigation and arrest are the focal points
- This traditional approach
  - Does not stop crime from occurring
  - Does not address the causes of crime



# Crime Prevention is *Proactive*

Crime prevention is designed to

- Examine crime trends
- Analyze and work toward positive alternatives to community and neighborhood conditions
- Educate and involve communities in crime prevention strategies
- Create an atmosphere of zero tolerance toward crime and criminal activity



# Examples of Proactive Policing

- Neighborhood and community watch programs
- Security surveys for homes and communities
- Having people engrave their property
- Encouraging people to register equipment and maintain logs of all valuables
- Having high-quality locks and lighting on personal property and within communities

# Development of Crime Prevention's 10 Action Principles

- The National Crime Prevention Council's Crime Prevention Coalition of America conducted more than two years of research and discussion.
- Twenty-six groups participated in two days of focus group meetings.
- A national roundtable of crime prevention specialists and researchers was convened.
- The steering committee interpreted the membership's concerns and shaped them into major tenets.



# *Engaging the Power of Prevention: 10 Action Principles*



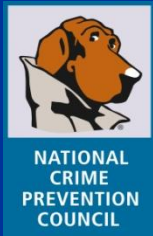
National Crime Prevention Council

# 10 Action Principles of Crime Prevention

## Preventing crime is

1. Everyone's business
2. More than security
3. A responsibility of all levels and agencies of government
4. Linked with solving social problems
5. Cost-effective

Source: National Crime Prevention Council



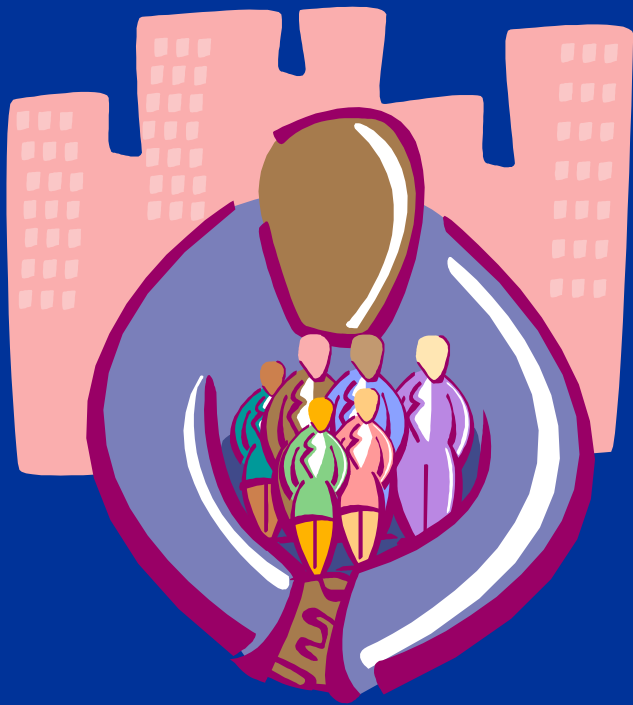
# 10 Action Principles of Crime Prevention (continued)

## **Preventing crime requires**

6. A central role in law enforcement
7. Cooperation and collaboration by all elements of the community
8. Education
9. Tailoring to local needs and conditions
10. Continual testing and improvement

Source: National Crime Prevention Council





Crime prevention  
improves the  
quality of life  
for every community.

Source: National Crime Prevention Council

# Benefits of Crime Prevention

- A revived sense of personal civic responsibility
- Greater freedom and security
- Increased respect
- Increased individual and collective pride in self and community
- Healthier, more interdependent communities

# Benefits of Crime Prevention (continued)

- Engages the community (businesses, elected officials, organizations, faith community)
- Involves stakeholders, who in turn
  - Get different groups committed to a program
  - Obtain funding





# Benefits of Crime Prevention: Saves Money



These are some examples of how crime prevention can save money.

- Settles disputes without violence
- Prevents juvenile violence
- Better street lighting

# Benefits of Crime Prevention: Saves Money (continued)

- Applies Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles
  - Accessibility
  - Surveillance
  - Territoriality
  - Physical maintenance
  - Order maintenance

# The Importance of Crime Trends

Trends change our lives.

- In 1982, how would you have called for emergency road service? Today?
- In 1982, how could you get cash out of your bank in a strange city at 1:00 a.m.? Today?
- In 1982, how big was a high-quality personal music player? Today?
- In 1982, how bulky were televisions? Today?

# Recent Crime Trends

- Phishing
- Cyberbullying
- Identity theft
- Terrorism
- Newer drugs



# Understanding Crime Trends Helps Us...

- Anticipate prevention needs
- Learn from the past
- Identify and implement future prevention strategies
- Reap the benefits of crime prevention
- Serve as effective advocates for crime prevention



# The Four Ds of Crime Prevention

- **Deny**—Entry or the opportunity for crime to occur
- **Delay**—Entry and heighten awareness
- **Detect**—Unlawful entry via devices
- **Deter**—Criminals from committing a crime

# Best Practices in Crime Prevention

- Home
- Car
- Out and about
- Travel or vacation
- In the neighborhood
- To, from, and at school
- Identity theft
- Cybercrime



# Best Practices in the Home



National Crime Prevention Council

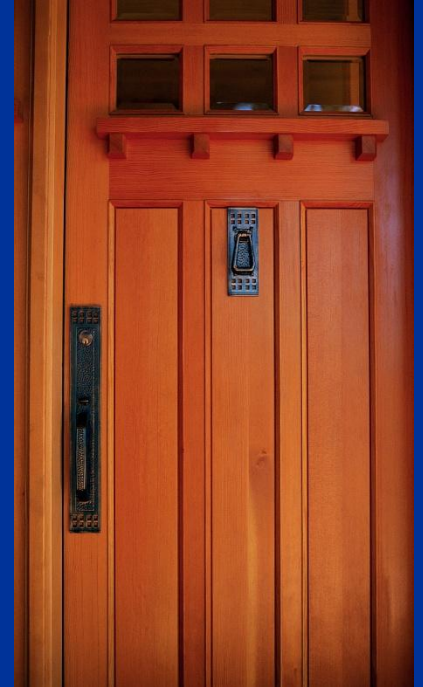




# In the Home

## ■ The Door

- Make sure you have sturdy, metal or solid-wood doors at all entries into your home.
- Install and use well-made deadbolt locks (1½-inch throw or greater) on all exterior doors.
- Make sure all exterior doors have peepholes.
- Light up entry doors.



# In the Home (continued)

## ■ Around the house

- Trim the shrubbery around your doors and windows.
- Install an alarm.
- Give an extra key to a neighbor you trust.
- Ask a law enforcement officer for a free home security survey.



# If You Live in an Apartment or Condominium

- Be cautious around entrances, parking areas, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms, and other common areas.
- Be sure that your entry door has a deadbolt lock and a peephole.
- Are the mailboxes well-traveled, well-lighted, and do they have good locks?
- Leave music playing or a light on while you are gone.



# Being Car-Wise

# Being Car-Wise

## ■ Carjacking

Carjacking is stealing a car by force with a driver and/or passenger in the vehicle.

While the chances of becoming a victim are slim, preventive measures can reduce your risk.

# Being Car-Wise (continued)

## ■ What do carjackers look for?

- Intersections controlled by stop lights or signs
- Garages and parking lots for mass transit, shopping malls, and grocery stores
- Self-serve gas stations and car washes
- Residential driveways and streets as people get in and out of cars
- Highway exit and entry ramps

# Being Car-Wise (continued)

## ■ Getting in

- Walk with a purpose to your car and stay alert.
- Approach your car with your door key already in hand.
- Be cautious of people who approach you and ask for directions or hand out fliers.



# Being Car-Wise (continued)

## ■ On the road



- Keep your doors locked and windows rolled up.
- When you come to a stop, leave enough room to maneuver around the other cars.
- Drive in the center lane to make it harder for would-be carjackers to approach the car.



# Being Car-Wise (continued)

## ■ On the road (continued)

- Don't stop to assist a stranger whose car has broken down. Instead, call for help.
- If you think someone is following you, head for the nearest brightly lighted area or police station.
- If you are suspicious of an unmarked car with flashing police lights ordering you to stop, drive to a well-lighted area with plenty of people before stopping.



# Being Car-Wise (continued)

## ■ Getting out

- Always lock the doors and take the keys when you leave your car.
- Park in well-lit areas, near sidewalks or walkways.
- Never leave valuables in plain view, even if the car is locked.
- Always look around before you get out and stay alert to the surroundings.



# Personal Safety Best Practices



# Out and About

## ■ Walking or jogging

- As you walk down the street or through the parking garage, walk alertly and assertively.
- Walk or jog in the middle of the sidewalk rather than against the doorways or along the curb.
- Stay alert—iPods and cell phones will distract you.
- When walking, keep your purse hugged close to your body and wallets in front pants pocket or jacket pocket.



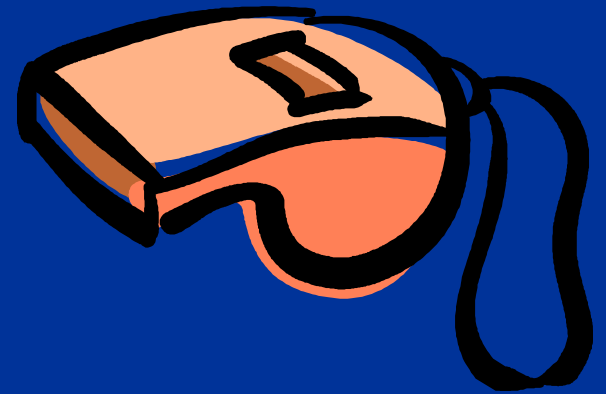
# Out and About (continued)

- Walking or jogging (continued)
  - Walk or jog with a companion.
  - Use familiar areas.
  - Do not walk or jog after dark or in secluded areas.
  - Be sure to face traffic.
  - Wear brightly colored or reflective clothing to improve visibility.



# Out and About (continued)

- Walking or jogging (continued)
  - Carry a whistle or shrill alarm to summon help if needed.
  - Vary your route and pattern.
  - Always be aware of your surroundings.
  - Walk or jog away from bushes where someone can hide.



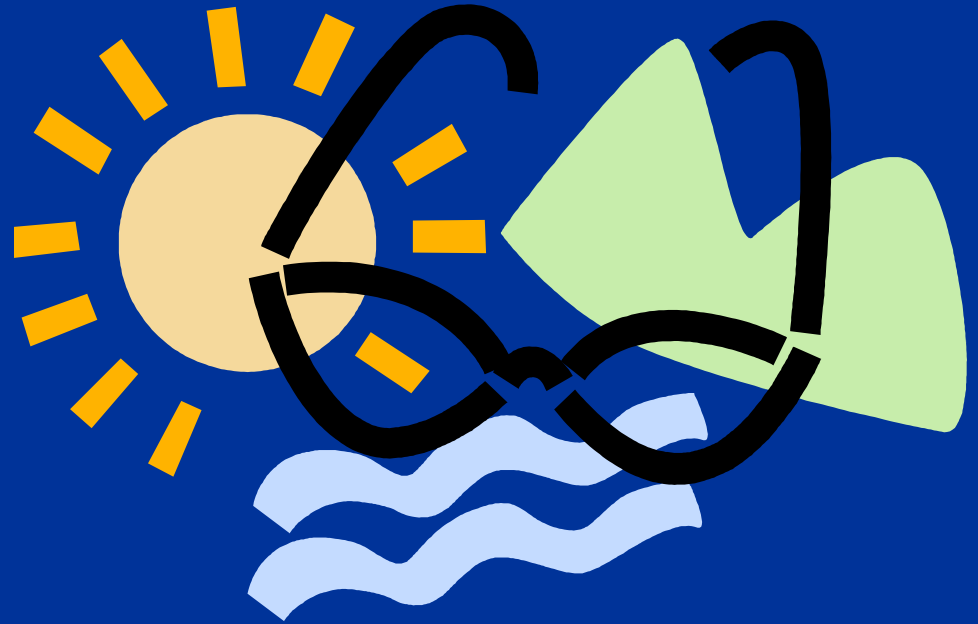
# Out and About (continued)

## ■ Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)

- Try to avoid using ATMs when alone.
- Try to avoid using an ATM after dark.
- When possible, use an ATM inside a bank or store and be alert before using it.
- Have all necessary cards and documents ready.
- Protect your personal identification number (PIN).
- When your transaction is complete, leave immediately.



# On Vacation





# On Vacation



## Before you leave

- Place several lights on a timer.
- Ask a neighbor or family member to check your home periodically.
- Stop newspaper and mail delivery.
- Don't forget to set your alarm.

# On Vacation (continued)

## While traveling

- Take only essential credit cards.
- Pack as lightly as possible.
- Large bags should be shipped in advanced for extended vacations.
- If you purchased something hefty, ask the merchant to ship it home for you.
- Check maps before you go out so you can tour confidently.



# On Vacation (continued)

- Try not to display expensive jewelry, cameras, bags, or other items that might draw attention.
- Stick to well-lit, well-traveled streets at all times; avoid short-cuts.
- Never leave your keys out where they can be picked up (i.e., poolside, lounge).
- Never leave a room unlocked, even to go get ice or a snack from the vending machine.



# On Vacation (continued)

- Make sure everyone in your party—adults, teens, children—has the name, address, and phone number of the place you are staying.
- Set up rules for each day's outings on where and how you'll link up if you become separated.
- Don't leave valuables in view in the car (your own or a rental). Leave them in the trunk or, better still, take them back to your room as soon as possible.
- Leave a photocopy of your wallet's contents at home or with a friend.

# In the Neighborhood



National Crime Prevention Council

# In the Neighborhood

- Get to know your neighbors.
- Start or strengthen your Neighborhood Watch program.
- Look out for each other's children.
- Help those who need a hand in making their homes more secure.
- Involve teenagers in the neighborhood's safety.
- Invite neighbors to work together on all sorts of community projects.



# In the Neighborhood (continued)

- Get involved in your neighborhood and at the community level.
- Find out whether your community has community policing.
- Find out who's working to help keep kids out of trouble.
- Be a volunteer or mentor.

# To, From, and at School

## *Best Practices for the Children*



National Crime Prevention Council



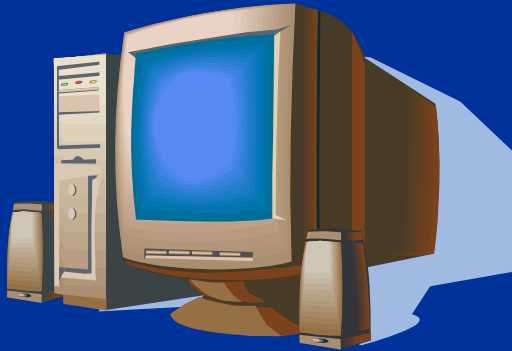
# School Safety Tips

- Check out the route your child takes when going to school.
- Make sure your child travels with others to and from school.
- Tell your child that anything that makes him or her uncomfortable or suspicious should be reported immediately to you and to school officials.
- Ask about the safety plan for your child's school.

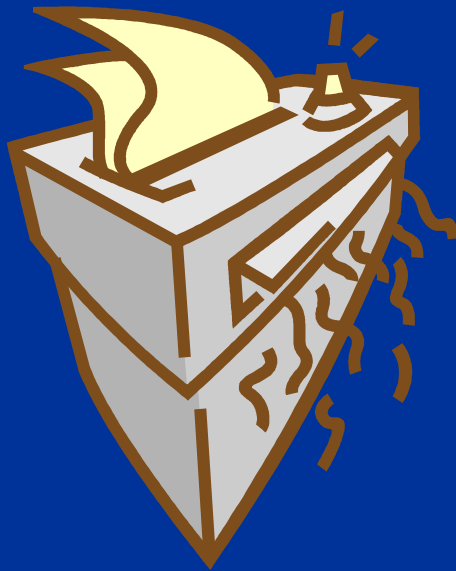




# Identity Theft and Cybersafety



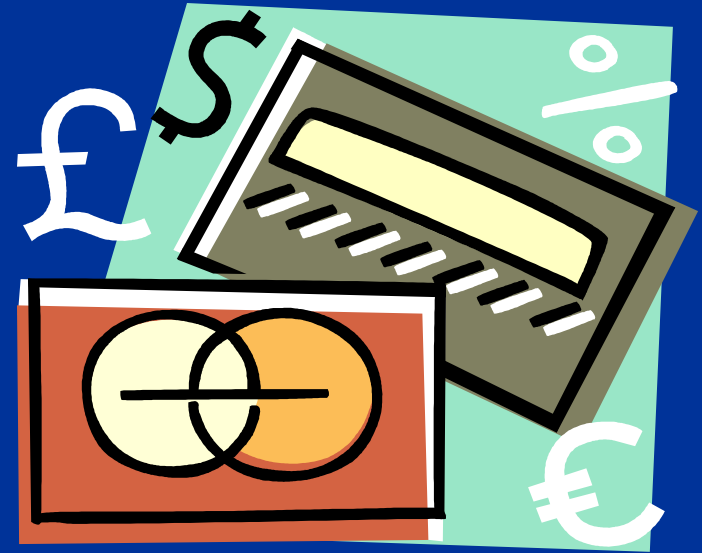
# Identity Theft



- Don't give out personal information over the phone.
- Shred all documents, especially those containing credit card offers or other personal information.
- Don't use your mother's maiden name as a password.
- Minimize the identification information and the number of cards you carry.

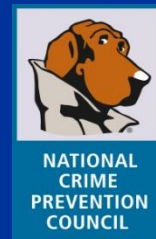
# Identity Theft (continued)

- Don't carry your Social Security card, birth certificate, or passport with you, unless absolutely necessary.
- Don't put your telephone number or Social Security number on checks.
- Pay attention to your billing cycles.
- Obtain a copy of your credit report twice a year.



# Your Credit Report

- You should check your credit report at least twice a year. The three major credit bureaus are
  - Equifax: [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)
  - Trans Union: [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)
  - Experian: [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)
- The Fair Credit Reporting Act allows you to get one free credit report from each of the credit bureaus once per year.
  - For more information visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)



# Cybersafety



- Be cautious before giving out your name and personal information to others online.
- Be careful about sending personal information over the Internet, by email, or over cellular phones.
- Don't use passwords that are obvious.
- Avoid break-ins by changing your password regularly and memorizing it.
- Shop online with companies that you know.
- Look for the “lock” icon on the webpage.



# Cybersafety (continued)

- Use a secure browser that will encrypt or scramble purchase information.
- Be cautious before agreeing to meet face-to-face with someone you've met online.
- Be careful before responding to messages from unfamiliar persons.
- Look for webpages that have a proper title, additional resources, or a person that you are able to contact.



# Small Group Activity



## Successful Crime Prevention in Your Community

National Crime Prevention Council



# Debrief



# *Questions*





# Resources

[www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)

[www.bytecrime.org](http://www.bytecrime.org)

[www.mcgruff.org](http://www.mcgruff.org)

National Crime Prevention Council



# NCPC Resources



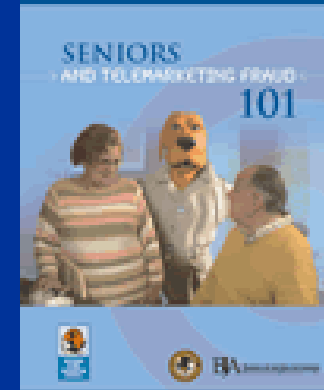
- Public service campaign that focuses on cybersecurity and -safety
- Partners including the Forum to Advance the Mobile Experience (FAME) and the Chief Marketing Officer Council (CMO Council)
- Download tip sheets and the publication *Mind What You Do Online*, report Internet crimes, and visit the security store

[www.bytecrime.org](http://www.bytecrime.org)

National Crime Prevention Council

# NCPC Resources (continued)

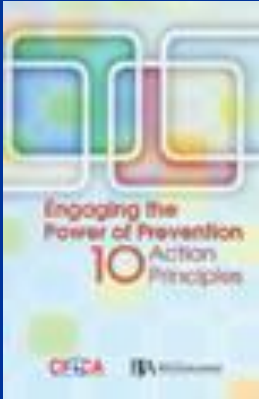
## ■ *Preventing Identity Theft Consumers Guide, 2005*



## ■ *Seniors and Telemarketing Fraud 101, 2006*



# NCPC Resources (continued)



- *Engaging the Power of Prevention: 10 Action Principles, 2005*



- *Neighborhood Watch Needs You, 2006*

# NCPC Resources (continued)

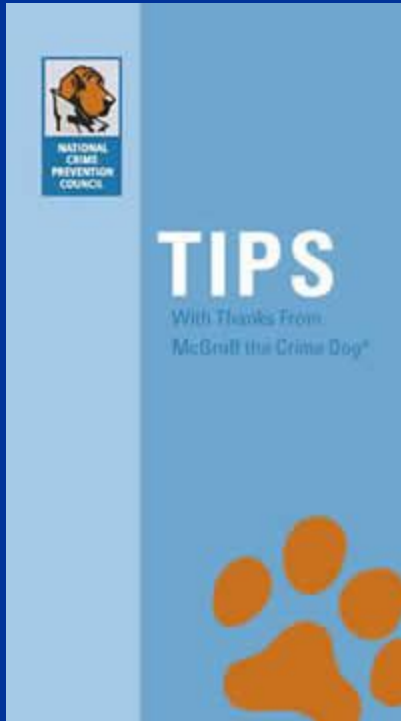
- *The McGruff Files: Your Inside Look at Crime Prevention, 2002*



- *United for a Stronger America: Citizens' Preparedness Guide, 2002*



# NCPC Resources (continued)



- *TIPS, With Thanks From McGruff the Crime Dog®*, 2003
- *Preventing Crime Saves Money*, 2005





# The National Crime Prevention Council

2345 Crystal Drive  
Fifth Floor  
Arlington, VA 22202  
202-466-6272  
FAX 202-296-1356  
[www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)  
[www.bytecrime.org](http://www.bytecrime.org)

National Crime Prevention Council



# Presenter Contact Information