



# **Enhancing School Safety Teams with a Focus on CPTED**

**School Safety And Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design**

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# PHYSICAL SECURITY

No matter where you go, or what you do, the physical security of any location depends on the presence/capacity of three things:

- 1) Trained People
- 2) Proven Processes
- 3) Adequate Technology and Equipment

If any of these “legs” is removed/weakened, we open ourselves up to increased vulnerability.

**When it come to School Safety, there is a huge difference between BEING safe and FEELING safe. Hopefully this information will help you improve in both areas in your respective schools.**

# **SITUATIONAL AWARENESS**

Knowing what is going on all around you by having the ability to:

- Identify
- Process
- Comprehend
- Respond (appropriately)

What is the weakest link in almost all the plans we make?

Who are you training?

\*The way a staff member responds to an emergency may be the difference between life and death for them, and/or their students.



# **What is your “Baseline” Knowledge?**

When it comes to your knowledge of, and familiarity with, your school/campus, where do you stand?

Why is it important to know your space, inside and out?

\*Compare EVERYTHING to a “baseline normal”, so you can quickly identify when it’s not!



# CPTED DEFINED

CPTED is defined as “the proper design and effective use of the built environment that can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in the quality of life.”

CPTED Emphasis:

- Physical environment
- Behavior of people in a specific environment
- Productive use of space available
- Crime/loss prevention - What are the problems, and how do we fix them?

# HISTORY OF CPTED

The term CPTED was first used in 1971, after criminologist C. Ray Jeffery wrote the book, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.

Mr. Jeffery contended that the way to prevent crime is to design the total environment in order to reduce opportunities of crime. \*Sadly his work, and the idea of CPTED was widely ignored through most of the 1970's.

CPTED has continued to evolve and be more commonly used in our society today. It is often used in the planning/building phase of new construction. CPTED is also used to evaluate existing buildings and areas to recommend and implement improvements.

# How Can I Contribute?

As an educator, you likely did not go into this profession thinking you would, one day, be trained in Armed Intruder defense strategies, Stop the Bleed best practices, let alone this training - CPTED.

Thankfully, we have educators like you who have an interest, and are willing to go above and beyond to ensure our campuses are safe(r).  
**(Trained People)**

“If you want better results, then forget about setting goals, focus on your systems, instead.” - James Clear - ‘Atomic Habits’ **(Proven Processes)**

# FEAR OF CRIME

The current public perception is that crimes (of all kinds) are rising, and that public safety faces a greater threat than ever before (in recent history).

This fear also exists in our schools... ranging from minor crime to a violent critical incident.

**No one wants to be a victim, especially our children.**

# CRIME PREVENTION

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

What crimes and dangers are we at highest risk for, and what steps can we take to mitigate, or minimize those risks?



# NATURAL SURVEILLANCE

The placement of physical features, activities, and people in a way that maximizes visibility. Such areas can be created by:

- Designing landscapes that allow clear, unobstructed views of surrounding areas
- Improving visibility with lighting or transparent building materials.
- Avoid lighting that creates glare or shadows.
- Avoid blind spots or entrapment areas - Open concepts in schools.

Natural surveillance increases the threat of apprehension by taking steps to increase the perception that people can be seen. (Sgt. West - Explain)















# LIGHTING

Lighting has two purposes within the CPTED model:

1. Lighting is used for the illumination of human activity. People are significantly less likely to commit crimes if they have the perception they can be seen.
2. Lighting is used for security. Lighting helps an individual observe their surroundings and respond to a potential threat. Lighting also allows us to observe areas that are vulnerable to potential crime.



# LIGHTING

## **Important areas at our schools that require effective lighting:**

1. Immediate external perimeter of school
2. All entrances; walkways up to/away from entrances
3. Any statues or works of art
4. Outbuildings
5. Utilities; generators, gas, transformers, etc.
6. Parking lots

CPTED



Lighting





# NATURAL ACCESS CONTROL

Natural access control means controlling access to a site. People are physically guided through a space by the strategic design of streets, sidewalks, building entrances, and landscaping. This can be achieved by:

- Ensuring that entrances are visible, well lit and overlooked by windows.
- Clearly defined entryways and by controlling other points of access to a site.
- Too many entry points in our schools - Discussion
- Highlighting main entrance.
- Clearly marked and maintained walkways and paths.
- Comprehensive wayfinding system - Markings and maps in our schools for first responders - Discussion











# WAYFINDING

**This element is crucial in school safety, as it fosters a more efficient and timely response from law enforcement:**

- Large/decorative maps at the start of the property for large campuses with multiple buildings - colleges and large high school campuses typically mapped
- Physical maps placed inside each main entryway - (Pros/Cons discussion)
- Each main entry way clearly numbered on exterior of building.
- Signage at the start of hallways showing range of room numbers.
- Label stairwells













# **FLOOR PLAN ACTIVITY WITH STUDENTS**

If you are interested in finding out what goes on in your school, who are the best people to ask?

- **Before School**
- **During Instructional Time**
- **After School/Events**





# **TERRITORIAL REINFORCEMENT**

Refers to people's sense of ownership. The development of areas or places where the users feel a strong sense of ownership. It is an umbrella concept, embodying all natural surveillance and access control principles.

Territorial reinforcement is the use of physical attributes that express ownership such as fencing, pavement treatments, signage, art, and landscaping.



















# PUBLIC ART

Public art, such as murals and sculptures, can be strategically incorporated into the built environment to enhance safety and prevent crime through CPTED concepts.

- Increase visibility and create “eyes on the street” deterring potential offenders.
- Public art can instill a sense of community (school) pride, making residents/students more likely to care for and protect their surroundings.
- Art can be used to define boundaries and guide movement, preventing access to restricted areas.
- Can create a positive image of an area, promoting positive social interactions and activity.









"Postcard from Billings" Mural by Noah Woodring, 2019.



# MAINTENANCE

Allows for the continued use of a space for its intended purpose. Serves as an additional expression of ownership. Prevents reduction of visibility from landscaping overgrowth and obstructed or inoperative lighting.

## **“Broken Window Theory”**

The presence of a broken window will entice vandals to break more windows in the vicinity. In the same vain, vandalism/graffiti encourages more vandalism/graffiti.

Activate unused space to encourage positive activity in those spaces.











# TRAFFIC CALMING

Traffic calming is the combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior, and improve conditions for non-motorized street users - pedestrians and students in our school zones.

- Encourage safe vehicle speeds in our school zones
- Reduce collision frequency and severity
- Increase pedestrian safety















# **MAJOR BENEFITS OF CPTED**

- Reduction in crime
- Reduction in potential for crime
- Perceived greater safety and security
- Improvement and beautification of physical environments

Communities across the nation that have used a strategic approach in implementing CPTED concepts to target specific target environments have seen a decrease in crime ranging from 30-80%. CPTED works!

**Stay focused on the single mission of keeping our students safe!**





**What Questions do you have, related to CPTED or other School Safety issues?**

**Please reach out with any questions**

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