

## CPTED Services

The Sheriff's Department offers the following CPTED services to all residents and businesses:

### Reviews

Crime Prevention Specialists who are trained in CPTED are now working closely with Planners, Architects, City Officials, and Educators to ensure the proper design of structures, schools, and neighborhoods. As part of the review process, the CPTED Specialist will assist in the Design Review of specific projects prior to public approval.

### Security Surveys

Residential and commercial security surveys can be conducted to make your living and workplaces more secure and safe for family, employees, and customers. Each location has specific security and design considerations that are unique.

For more information, contact the Sheriff's Department CPTED Specialist at (916)874-2736.

***CPTED enhances  
the feeling of safety  
and quality of life in  
Sacramento County.***

## Crime Prevention Services

The following services offer enhanced safety and security, as well as complement the CPTED philosophy:

### Neighborhood Watch

In conjunction with a home security survey, a presentation on Neighborhood Watch can be given to you and your neighbors. In conjunction with effective home security, Neighborhood Watch is a proven crime prevention program!

For more information on Neighborhood Watch and other Crime Prevention services and programs, please visit the Sheriff's Department website at [www.sacsheriff.com](http://www.sacsheriff.com), and click on "Crime Prevention".



SSD-BR-1207-1

For more information about the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department and its programs and services, visit the Web site at [www.sacsheriff.com](http://www.sacsheriff.com) or call 916-874-5115.

# Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

***Designing Safer  
Neighborhoods and  
Communities for Sacramento  
County.***



**Sacramento Sheriff's Department**



***John McGinness, Sheriff***

## What is CPTED?

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, or CPTED, is "... a philosophy based on the theory that the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, as well as an improvement in the quality of life." - National Crime Prevention Institute

Put simply, CPTED is a means of designing and retrofitting neighborhoods and communities to make residents feel safer, while making criminals feel more uncomfortable. Rather than focusing simply on hardware and locks, CPTED enhances visibility and other natural elements.

## How does CPTED impact me?

CPTED impacts each citizen by increasing safety, promoting secure environments and improving the appearance of neighborhoods and public amenities.

The Sheriff's Department works closely with various other County Departments to integrate many CPTED elements into new and established neighborhoods.

## CPTED Elements

CPTED is based on a series of four strategies to help achieve greater safety:

### Natural Access Control

The design of an area or space to physically obstruct or guide access by people and vehicles. The strategy is to get people to use or observe a specified area, which will make offenders readily visible and uncomfortable in committing their activities in that space. Examples include hostile/thorny landscaping, decorative fencing, and traffic signs.



### Territorial Reinforcement

This strategy is one that fosters a "vested interest" in the environment. When people feel that the area they live or work in "belongs" to them, they will be more protective and concerned about its potential for crime. Additionally, the design of an area suggests to an offender that someone "owns" the area, and that their activities are likely to be observed by someone who will contact the Sheriff's Department. Examples include lighting, walkways, landscaping, and decorative fencing.

### Natural Surveillance

Whether from employees, customers, or residents, this strategy is directed at enhancing the chances that criminal activities will be observed by the users of a space. This strategy works because criminals will not commit crimes in areas where they feel vulnerable or exposed. In the event that there is a crime, there is also a greater chance that it will be witnessed and reported to police. Examples include windows, front porches on homes, security lighting, and parking lots that are readily visible from neighboring buildings.

### Maintenance

The basic upkeep, repair, and maintenance of a property. Neglected property can create mistreatment by residents, while maintained property will elicit proper treatment. This strategy directly impacts the fear of crime in a community due to residents' perceptions of responsibility and caring in the neighborhood. Examples include landscape maintenance, graffiti removal, weed abatement, and painting and general building maintenance.