



Neighborhood security survey

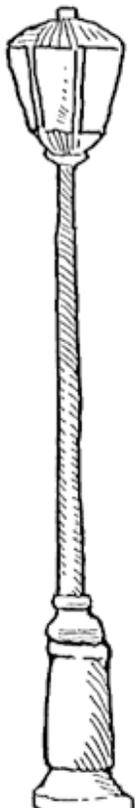
Conducting a neighborhood security survey can be a simple task in which three or four members of your block club walk around the block, noting anything in the physical environment that may give the criminal an edge.

Your group may want to go through the area several times. At least one walk should be done during evening hours, so you can check on lighting and identify dark areas created by walls, fences, and trees.



Below is a guide to help your group in some things to look for while conducting your survey. Once the survey is complete and your group finds that you need to make some improvements, assign a small committee to prioritize tasks.

LIGHTING



- **Are all of our street lights in good working order? Which ones need repair?**
- **Do we need more lights in our neighborhood? If so, where?**
- **Are lights needed between detached garages or on dead walls such as sound barrier walls and walls around commercial or public property?**
- **Are lights bright enough to afford good visibility without being annoying?**

Residents have an important role in deterring crime by utilizing existing lighting on their property or by improving their lighting.

Regular incandescent lighting mounted on a pole or wall is sufficient for most city homes. However, low-pressure sodium or mercury vapor lighting is more energy efficient and will illuminate a larger area.

Residents can contact Northern States Power Company for information on a variety of affordable residential lighting improvement options.

Your block may qualify for additional mid-block city street and alley lighting. Call 311 to find out.

Report damaged or malfunctioning street lights call 311.

LANDSCAPING

- **Do any overgrown shrubs, trees, or hedges near sidewalks, median strips, or other public-use areas provide a hiding spot for criminals?**
- **Do any shrubs or trees cast shadows or block the illumination from street lights?**
- **Are there overgrown areas between garages, along the alley, or along property lines where criminals can operate or hide?**
- **Are residential property borders along public areas clearly defined with landscaping or a chain link/“see-through” fence?**
- **Are there unkempt properties with overgrown lawns, sidewalks that are not shoveled, or mail piling up that may signal a criminal that a house is vacant?**



Shrubs, bushes, and hedges trimmed to three feet or annual and perennial flower gardens provide a border to your property and a psychological barrier that discourages criminals from entering your property.

Thorny shrubs or bushes planted near windows and in isolated hiding spots, such as areas between garages, deter criminals.

Fences provide both a physical and psychological barrier to criminals. Chain link or “see-through” lattice fences will keep sight lines open for you and your neighbors.

Contact the property owner to report unkempt properties. If it is not resolved, call 311.

PARKING



- **Are there hiding spots near common-use and residential parking areas?**
- **Do parking areas have adequate lighting?**
- **Is off-street parking being utilized by all residents?**

Encourage neighbors at a block meeting to utilize their off-street parking, as most damage to autos occurs on the street.

ADDRESSES DISPLAYED



- **Do all residences prominently display an address on the front and back of the property?**

If not, contact the property owner. If it is not resolved, call 311.

Contact your crime prevention specialist for additional prevention information. Call 311 (or 612-673-3000) or see www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/police_outreach_safe-teams to locate your neighborhood crime prevention specialist.

For further crime prevention resources, please visit

www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/index.htm.



English: Attention. If you want help translating this information, call 612-673-3737

Spanish: Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2700

Somali: Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500

Hmong: Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800

Sign Language: TTY 612-673-2626

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact the Minneapolis Police Department at 612-673-2912.