

Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training

Basic Curriculum Model Lesson Plan

LESSON TITLE: CRIME PREVENTION 6.4

SUBJECT:	Crime Prevention
AZ POST DESIGNATION:	6.4
HOURS:	1
COURSE CONTENT:	A review of the crime prevention functions of the patrol officer and the role and services available from various crime prevention programs. Locking devices, area lighting and other methods for deterring criminal activity are discussed.
PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:	Upon completion of this course of instruction, students using notes, handouts and other support materials as references, within the allotted time, will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">6.4.1 Identify the following as crime prevention functions of a law enforcement officer:<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Assessing/anticipating criminal activity.B. Recognizing crime risks.C. Taking actions to reduce the opportunity for criminal activity, including educating the public regarding crime risks and crime prevention methods.6.4.2 Identify the role and functions performed by each of the following crime prevention programs:<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Neighborhood Watch/Block Watch.B. Operation Identification.C. School Resource Officers(SRO's).D. Sexual assault prevention.E. Silent Witness.

6.4.3 Identify security considerations associated with each of the following:

- A. Area lighting.
- B. Exterior hinges.
- C. Hollow core doors.
- D. Landscaping.
- E. Roll-out windows.
- F. Sliding glass doors.
- G. Sliding windows.
- H. Security and doorbell cameras.

DATE FIRST PREPARED: October 2001

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INSTRUCTOR REFERENCES: Arizona Crime Prevention Association; C.P.T.E.D. Manual of the National Crime Prevention Institute of the University of Louisville, Dr. Randall Atlas, February 2001; National Crime Prevention Council; United States Postal Service; Arizona Auto Theft Authority and Michigan Auto Theft Prevention Authority.

CLASS LEVEL: Student

TRAINING AIDS: Dry marker board, handouts and PowerPoint presentation.

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGY: Interactive lecture and group discussion.

SUCCESS CRITERIA: 70% or higher on a written, multiple-choice examination.

COMPUTER FILE NAME: 6.4 Crime Prevention

DATE RELEASED TO THE SHARE FILE: August 2023

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Instructor – (self) introduction.
- B. Preview of performance objectives.
- C. Ask recruits if they were ever a victim of a crime and how they felt or to relate a personal story.

II. DEFINITION

- A. Crime Prevention is “the anticipation, the recognition, and the appraisal of a crime risk and the initiation of action to remove or reduce it.”
- B. Goals of crime prevention:
 - 1. To make all community members and police officers aware that many crimes can be prevented through some relatively easy “common sense” measures which will hopefully motivate them to take these measures.
 - 2. Different from “traditional” reactive police enforcement, the police function began as prevention and is again being integrated into today’s modern police forces.
 - 3. Crime prevention functions of a law enforcement officer. **P O. 6.4.1**
 - a. Assess/anticipation of potential crime. **P O. 6.4.1A**
 - b. Recognition of high crime risks and preparing for those risks. **P O. 6.4.1B**
 - c. In keeping with the philosophy of community-based policing and problem solving crime prevention, it stresses education and community involvement. **P O. 6.4.1C**
 - i. To be effective we need to educate as many community members as possible and help them be responsible for their own safety.
 - ii. Crime prevention education is the responsibility of all officers, not just crime prevention squad members.
 - iii. Education is accomplished individually, at public meetings, and at Neighborhood Block Watch meetings, and in everyday contacts with community members.
- C. In order to apply the definition – “action to remove or reduce crime risk” you need to understand three (3) other areas. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** Review the definition of crime prevention.
 - 1. Property crimes are generally crimes of opportunity:

- a. Easy access.
 - b. Valuables in plain sight.
 - c. Obviously unoccupied homes.
2. Crime triangle – the elements a thief needs to commit the crime. (Similar to the fire triangle “heat, fuel and oxygen.”) **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** Draw a triangle on the board and show how removing just one (1) element stops crime.
- a. Desire a. Victim
 - b. Knowledge or b. Suspect
 - c. Opportunity c. Location
 - d. Remove any one (1) element and the crime has been eliminated.
3. The four (4) D’s of crime prevention:
- a. **Deny** – property by locking it up.
 - b. **Deter** – by the signals your property sends to the would-be criminal.
INSTRUCTOR NOTE: Delay and deter may be achieved by the use of barriers or security and doorbell cameras.
 - c. **Delay** – by making entry difficult and time consuming.
 - d. **Detect** – entry by lighting, landscaping and surveillance to expose points of entry (alarms, dogs, etc.). (Security and doorbell cameras
4. Activity support.
- a. Encouraging legitimate activity in public spaces helps discourage crime.
 - b. A basketball court in a public park or community center will provide recreation for youth, while making strangers more obvious and increasing active natural surveillance and the feeling of ownership.
 - c. Any activity that gets people out and working together – a clean-up day, a block party, a Neighborhood Watch group, a civic meeting – helps prevent crime.

- III. HOME AND BUSINESS SECURITY considerations: *INSTRUCTOR NOTE: Stress the importance of life over possessions*
- A. Many jurisdictions have fire safety and building ordinances that may restrict, forbid or require certain security measures (double cylinder locks, window grates, self-latching pool gates, etc.).
1. These ordinances vary from one (1) jurisdiction to another.
 2. Be aware of local ordinances before making any recommendations.
 3. Security strike plates.
 - a. All entry doors should have a security strike plate installed.
 - b. Security strike plates are four (4) to eight (8) inches long and have four (4) or more three-inch (3") screws.
 - c. Screws of this length are long enough to extend into the framework of the wall and not just into the trim wood.
- B. Entry doors.
1. Hollow core vs. solid core.
 - a. Hollow core. **P O. 6.4.3C**
 - i. As the name implies, hollow core doors are hollow.
 - ii. Hollow core doors are inexpensive, but are intended for interior use only.
 - iii. Easily kicked in or pushed open.
 - b. Solid core.
 - i. They are intended for exterior use.
 - ii. Constructed of solid wood, laminated wood, particleboard, plywood, fiberglass, metal or a combination of the above.
 2. Viewers (a.k.a. peepholes, security and doorbell cameras).
 - a. Allows people to see who is at the door without having to open the door or look out a window.
 - b. All front entry doors should have a viewer.

- c. One hundred and eighty degrees (180°) minimum.
- d. The height should be determined by the occupants of the house.
- e. There are numerous products available now for viewing and recording who is at the front door of a residence remotely. Some of the products allow the homeowner to verbally communicate with the individual and record their presence on the camera. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** Discuss products such as Ring doorbell cameras or Nest home security cameras.

3. Exposed exterior door hinges.

P O. 6.4.3B

- a. If the exterior door opens out, it has exposed hinges.
- b. This design is harder to kick open, but can easily be defeated by removing the hinge pins and lifting the door off.
- c. There are several options to secure this design.
 - i. Some use a set screw to secure the pin in the hinge. The setscrew can only be accessed if the door is open.
 - ii. Others have a pin that locks both hinges together when the door is closed.
 - iii. You can install a pin in the wall that engages the door when closed.
 - iv. You can also find two (2) opposing screws and remove them, install a longer screw letting it extend about three-eighths of an inch (3/8") from the wall. Cut off the head of the screw. If the door will not close, you may need to enlarge the screw hole in the door.

4. Sliding glass doors (arcadia doors).

P O. 6.4.3F

- a. Sliding glass doors can sometimes be defeated by lifting them from their tracks.
- b. Even if they cannot be lifted from their track, often lifting the door disengages the lock and the door can be slid open.
- c. Most have only latches and not locks.
- d. There are many ways to secure a sliding glass door.
 - i. A dowel or stick can be placed in the track, but this will not secure a door that can be lifted off the track.

- ii. A screw can be installed in the track above the door to prevent it from being lifted.
- iii. The screws are installed so they are above the door when closed.
- iv. The screws are only seated deeply enough so the door will slide closed but is not able to be lifted.
- v. A hole can be drilled into the frame around the glass (being careful not to hit the glass) of the door into the stationary part of the door and a pin or nail inserted to prevent the door from being slid open.
- vi. There are also many other products available at the hardware store for this purpose – most for less than \$10.
 - a) Charley bars.
 - b) Mechanical pins.
 - c) Track blocking devices (some with locks).
- vii. The fire department recommends that people crawl out of a building in case of a fire, so all additional locks should be mounted low enough to be reached from a crawling position.

C. Windows.

- 1. Are left open or unlocked at a higher rate than doors and create an easy-entry option.
 - a. Sliding glass windows. **P O. 6.4.3G**
 - i. Always use a secondary blocking device.
 - ii. Can be reinforced the same as a sliding glass door.
 - iii. Thumb screw locks can also be attached to the track.
 - b. Casement windows (crank open/roll-out). **P O. 6.4.3E**
 - i. Casement windows can be very secure if hardware is in good working order and used correctly.
 - ii. The crank does not lock the window; it relies on a lever to lock the window closed.
 - iii. Often older windows do not crank closed completely and the lever does

- not engage the windows.
- iv. Often, simply replacing the hardware will make the window work and lock properly.
- v. Some replacement casement window levers have a hole for either a pin or pad lock for extra security.
- vi. Older levers can sometimes be drilled to install a pin or padlock.
- c. Double hung windows.
 - i. These windows slide vertically and usually have an upper and a lower window.
 - ii. Numerous devices are available at hardware stores to secure these windows.
 - iii. These windows can also be pinned by drilling a hole from the front window into the back window and a nail or pin installed to prevent them from being slid open.
 - iv. If the hole is drilled at a slight downward angle, it will prevent the pin from being shaken loose.
- 2. Grill work (wrought iron).
 - a. Can be mounted over ground floor windows if local ordinances allow.
 - b. Must have a break-away feature to allow egress in case of an emergency.
- D. Area lighting. **P O. 6.4.3A**
 - 1. Lighting by itself will not necessarily reduce crime. ***INSTRUCTOR NOTE:*** *Discuss different types of fixtures and their costs.*
 - a. Lighting enhances surveillance.
 - b. Interior lighting.
 - i. Is necessary to give the appearance of life and activity inside the home.
 - ii. Lights should turn on and off simulating actual occupancy.
 - iii. Use light timers on a daily basis, not just when away.

- iv. It is more comfortable to not have to enter a dark home.
- c. Exterior lighting.
 - i. Is very important especially if you must park in a common area and walk to your front door.
 - ii. If you can see a potential threat in advance you can avoid it.
 - iii. Should be bright enough for you to see 100 feet and be able to identify a suspect by clothing, sex, race and age.
 - iv. Use good lighting along the pathway and at your front door.
 - v. Illuminate the house number so emergency responders can find the house quickly.
- d. Perimeter lighting.
 - i. Porch and garage lights left on all day signals that you are away. Use a photocell or timer.
 - ii. Consider using motion-sensor lights on rear and side yards. These are inexpensive and can also be a type of alarm signaling something has entered your yard. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** *Most restrictive if there is an observatory nearby.*
- e. Dark sky ordinances.
 - i. Some jurisdictions have ordinances that restrict certain types and styles of fixtures.
 - ii. Do your research, know what applies within your jurisdiction.
- 2. Landscaping. **P O. 6.4.3D**
 - a. Sends a strong signal to would-be criminals – territoriality. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** *This helps prevent intruders from concealing themselves. This opens up the area to view, increasing natural surveillance.*
 - b. Visibility is the key.
 - c. Keep bushes and hedges trimmed below the bottom of the window and away from entryways.
 - d. Trim (mature) tree branches so none are lower than six (6) to seven (7) feet from

- the ground.
- e. Windows and doors should be easily visible to passersby, again increasing natural surveillance.
 - f. Thorny plants can be used to control access: Cactus, roses, bougainvillea, pyracantha, etc.
3. Fences.
- a. Access control and territoriality.
 - b. Must be maintained and gates should be locked.
 - c. Burglars like a clear escape route, a locked fence may slow him/her down.
 - d. Can prevent removal of large items too heavy to get over a fence.
 - e. Do not recommend placing broken glass, tar or carpet tack strips on top of a fence.
 - f. Police and fire personnel often have to climb fences in emergencies.
 - g. Consider fencing that enhances natural surveillance like wrought iron or quality chain link especially in commercial and multi-housing applications.

IV. ALARMS

- A. Alarm systems have a place in a home or business security plan and can be effective if used properly. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** *Explain your local alarm ordinance and fine schedule.*
 - 1. Alarms increase the possibility of a criminal being caught.
 - 2. Signage also plays a deterrent role.
 - 3. Must be properly installed, programmed and maintained.
 - 4. Response list must be kept up to date.
- B. Most Arizona cities have an alarm ordinance that requires a permit for a home or business alarm. These ordinances also allow fines for false alarms.
 - 1. False alarms create a tremendous increase in the police workload. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** *Give an account of false alarm response times. Many monitored alarms are also audible.*
 - 2. It is very important that the user is familiar with the system and it is properly

maintained.

C. Monitored vs. audible.

1. Monitored alarms have an alarm company who calls a responsible person for the property and the police in case of activation.
2. Audible alarms sound a bell or siren in case of activation. They rely on scaring the criminal off and neighbors calling the police.
 - a. Not recommended for commercial businesses due to lack of activity during non-business hours.
 - b. Audible-only alarms may frighten a burglar off for a short time, but they may return when police do not respond.
 - c. There are numerous products available to homeowners and business owners that provide live surveillance options as well as cloud storage for recordings.
INSTRUCTOR NOTE: Discuss products such as Ring Doorbells, or Nest camera systems.

V. VEHICLES

A. Stolen vehicles.

1. Vehicle theft facts.
 - a. Arizona is second in the nation (per capita) for total stolen vehicles.
 - b. Auto theft is almost epidemic in the western United States.
 - c. Nearly one half (½) of all stolen vehicles were unlocked.
 - d. One (1) in five (5) stolen vehicles had the key either in or on it.
 - e. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of stolen vehicles were recovered in 1999.
 - f. Stolen vehicles are often used to facilitate crimes.
2. The Arizona Auto Theft Authority and The National Insurance Crime Bureau recommend “layered protection.”
 - a. The more layers of protection on a vehicle, the more difficult it is to steal.
 - b. The number of layers can be varied depending on the vehicle, budget and personal preferences.

- B. Recommendations.
1. Layer #1 – common sense:
 - a. An unlocked vehicle with a key in the ignition is an open invitation to any thief.
 - b. The common sense approach is the simplest and most cost-effective way to thwart would-be thieves.
 - i. Always secure your vehicle even if parked for brief periods.
 - a) Remove the key.
 - b) Lock the doors.
 - c) Roll up the windows.
 - d) Park in a well-lit area.
 - e) Secure valuables in the trunk or out of sight if you must leave them in the car.
 - ii. Park in your garage at home. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** *No device works all of the time.*
 - a) Lock the car and garage door.
 - b) Do not leave your keys in the car while in the garage.
 - iii. Layer #2 – warning device:
 - a) The second layer is a visible or audible device that alerts thieves that your car is protected. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** *Ask, How many times have you heard an alarm in a parking lot? Did you investigate?*
 - b) Audible alarms (no required permits).
 - c) Steering wheel locks.
 - d) Column locks.
 - e) Brake locks.
 - f) Wheel locks.

- g) Theft-deterrent decals.
 - h) Window etching.
 - iv. Layer #3 – immobilizing device:
 - a) This third layer of protection is a device that prevents thieves from bypassing your ignition and hot-wiring the vehicle.
 - b) Smart keys.
 - c) High-security locks and keys.
 - d) Fuse cut-off.
 - e) Kill switches.
 - f) Starter, ignition and fuel disablers.
 - v. Layer #4 – tracking device:
 - a) The final layer of protection is a tracking device which emits a signal to a police or monitoring station when the vehicle is reported stolen. Very effective in the recovery of stolen vehicles.
 - b) “LoJack.”
 - c) “OnStar.”
 - d) Manufacturer GPS tracking
- C. Watch Your Car program.
1. The Watch Your Car decal program is a free, voluntary program whereby vehicle owners enroll their vehicles with the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority.
 2. The vehicle is then entered into the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) database and participants receive decals for their front and rear windows.
 3. By displaying the decals, vehicle owners convey to law enforcement officials that their vehicle is not usually in use between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., when the majority of auto thefts occur.
 4. If a police officer witnesses the vehicle in operation between these hours, he/she has

the permission to stop the vehicle and verify it is being legally operated by the rightful owner.

D. Thefts and burglary from a vehicle.

1. Similar to a stolen vehicle.
2. Remove or hide valuables if they must be left in the car. (Removing valuables and locking the doors reduces the chance of being a victim from one (1) in 30 to one (1) in 3,000).
3. Lock the car and roll up the windows.
4. Park in areas of activity (more witnesses) when shopping. **P O. 6.4.2A**
5. Use your home garage.

VI. CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS

P O. 6.4.2

A. Neighborhood Watch or Block Watch.

P O. 6.4.2A

1. A nationally-recognized program which brings neighbors together to discuss neighborhood issues and crime prevention topics. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** *Tell the Pool cleaner story (Addendum) Safety.com presented a survey in 2020 that estimated the average American is caught on security cameras 238 times per week, 160 times per week when driving. Who knows the neighborhood better than the people who live there?*
2. Virtual Block Watch programs have been initiated in many cities. It is a partnership between the police departments and community members in an effort to reduce crime. The homeowners will register their surveillance camera systems with the police departments who then use that information to contact them only if a criminal incident occurred in the vicinity of their security cameras.
3. Program requirements vary from city to city, but most cities encourage the posting of Block Watch signs (territoriality) and holding a minimum of two (2) meetings per year.
4. Encourages neighbors to look out for and help each other.
5. It is in keeping with the community-based policing philosophy. Police and citizens community members working closer together to solve problems.
6. Eyes and ears for the department.
7. Many departments have a program where Block Watch members go out on organized patrols of their neighborhoods (natural surveillance) after attending a block of training.

- a. Phoenix: Neighborhood patrol.
- b. City of Tempe: Citizens Community members on foot patrol, citizens community members on horse patrol and citizens community members on park patrol.

B. Operation Identification.

P O. 6.4.2B

1. A program where citizens community members check out engravers from their local police department to engrave valuables with a unique number (normally their driver's license number) and their state.
2. The marking of property makes it less valuable for the criminal and easier to get back to the rightful owner when recovered.
3. A sticker is placed on windows for a potential burglar to see.
4. The proper method to mark items is with the state abbreviation at the beginning and at the end of the number leaving no spaces. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** *Example AZ12345678AZ*

C. Crime Free Multi-Housing Program (CFMH).

1. Many multi-housing communities (apartments, mobile homes, town houses, etc.) have crime problems that cannot be solved with traditional methods. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** *Recommend officers attend the class (a lot of good information).*
2. The CFMH gives managers and management companies the means to effect rapid changes in the behavior of their residents.
3. Three (3)-phase program.
 - a. Phase 1:
 - i. An eight (8)-hour training class.
 - ii. Provides management with the tools needed to properly run a multi-housing community.
4. Crime Free Multi-Housing Card.
 - a. Many of the continual calls officers respond to can be handled by the manager if they were only aware of them.
 - b. The card is to be left at the office by the officer responding to a call at any CFMH property (it can also be left even if not a certified property) so the manager is aware of the problem.

- c. Requires a close working relationship with the manager(s) and the police department.

D. Silent Witness Program.

P O. 6.4.2E

1. This program provides citizens community members with rewards for information that leads to an arrest and/or an indictment of a wanted felon. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** *May go by a different name depending on the agency.*
2. Available through a 24-hour hotline.
3. Allows the caller to be anonymous.
4. Publicized weekly for unsolved felony crimes.

E. Sexual assault awareness class.

P O. 6.4.2D

1. This class explores the myths about sexual assault and the stages a victim goes through.
2. It stresses the need to be alert to one's surroundings at all times to avoid becoming a victim.

F. School Resource Officers.

P O. 6.4.2C

1. The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program places a police officer on the campus of participating schools.
2. School Resource Officers work on the following issues on the school campus:
 - a. Truancy.
 - b. Child neglect and abuse.
 - c. Assaults.
 - d. Gang activity.
 - e. Substance abuse.
 - f. Campus patrol.
 - g. Threats to the safety of students and staff.
3. In addition, SRO's provide campus patrol, class presentations and "law-related education programs" and maintain a close relationship with area patrol officers.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS CRIME PREVENTION TOPICS

A. Mail theft.

1. Theft of mail has been on the increase throughout the United States according to the United Postal Service.
2. “. . . some parts of the country are seeing an increase in "volume" mail thefts. . . particularly Phoenix, AZ, and portions of California and Texas.” **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** *Excerpt from the United States Postal Service website.*
3. The postal service recommends following these tips:
 - a. Never send cash or coins in the mail. Use checks or money orders.
 - b. Promptly pick up your mail from the mail box especially if you are expecting a check, credit card or other negotiable items.
 - c. Have the post office hold your mail while you are away from home for a long period of time.
 - d. If you do not receive an expected check, food coupon or other valuables, notify the issuing agency immediately.
 - e. Notify the post office, and anyone with whom you do business, of an address change immediately.
 - f. Always deposit your mail in a blue postal service mail collection box, the mail slot at the local post office or hand it directly to a letter carrier.
 - g. Never leave it for pick up by the letter carrier at the mailbox where it can be easily stolen.
 - h. Delivery services outside of the USPS will take photographs of the item left to indicate the location of the item should it be stolen later. Some delivery services have offered the recipient the option of providing a virtual key to access their residence or garage to leave delivery items as opposed to leaving in a visible location such as the doorstep. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** *Discuss Amazon and their programs for better security of packages being delivered.*

B. Identity theft.

1. The wrongful use of a person’s personal identifying information such as name, birth date or social security number for a deceptive or fraudulent purpose. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** *See IRS handout on Identity Theft Prevention and Victim Assistance.*

- a. Obtain credit and merchandise in another's name. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** *The Arizona Attorney General's Office can provide victim support in ID Theft Cases.*
 - b. Often used to get out of legal trouble.
 - c. Can destroy a victim's credit and reputation.
2. A thief obtains a victim's information through mail theft, lost or stolen wallets and purses, finding personal papers in the trash, diverting mail with change of address forms or fake phone calls.
3. Steps to take to avoid becoming an identity theft victim:
- a. Follow the mail theft tips.
 - b. Shred all financial and personal documents before throwing them out.
 - c. Closely monitor bank statements and check into questionable charges, missing payments and unauthorized withdrawals. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** *DO NOT use your SSN as your driver's license number. If it already is, change it ASAP.*
 - d. Keep tight security on all of your PIN numbers and passwords. Never use an address, birth date, home phone, etc.
 - e. Do not carry your social security number with you.
 - f. Safeguard your social security number, account number, password or other personal information. Never give these out over the phone unless you initiated the conversation and there is a valid reason.
 - i. Ask why it is needed and for what purpose it will be used?
 - ii. Ask what happens if you refuse to give it out?
 - g. Keep your valuable papers, blank checks, credit cards and financial information in a safe place.

VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. Review of performance objectives.
- B. Final questions and answers.
- C. Instructor closing comment(s).

ADDENDUM I**The Pool Cleaner Story**

One day a woman was inside her home. She glanced out of her window and saw the pool cleaner pull up and park in front of her neighbor's house. The pool cleaner got out of his truck and picked up his skimmer, brushes and a bucket of supplies. He proceeded through the side gate and into the back yard.

The woman immediately called the police!

What do you think?

Just another nosey neighbor?

The rest of the story

Turns out that the woman knew her neighbors and knew that they did not have a pool. When the police arrived they arrested the "pool cleaner" as he exited the neighbor's house that he had just burglarized. He was later implicated in many other burglaries from the neighborhood.

Had an officer driven by as the "pool cleaner" walked away from his truck "tools in hand" they would not have known anything was up (some might have waved at him).

It does not matter how many additional officers are put on the street, they will never have the intimate knowledge of the neighborhood that the people who live there have.