



Dear SAFE Friends & Supporters,

Community Empowerment is an essential part in making our neighborhoods a safer place to live, work and play. Community Empowerment leads to effective Community Policing activities and creates a stronger relationship between residents, businesses, schools, police and city agencies. SAFE encourages and empowers each neighborhood to be creative in addressing crime and quality-of-life issues in their area. There are many ways that you can get involved in making your community safer:

- Get to know your neighbors and form a SAFE Neighborhood Watch group
- Get trained and involved in NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)
- Attend your District Captain's monthly Police Community Relations forum
- Support beautification projects & volunteer in your neighborhood
- Participate in events and activities that bring police and the community together

In this Newsletter you will read about examples of Community Empowerment and how your community can come together, collaborate with the police, and problem-solve to address public safety and crime concerns.

Lunar New Year Public Safety Campaign

The Year of the Boar is approaching, and falls on February 18, 2007. During this time, SAFE will be launching its Annual Lunar New Year Crime Prevention and Public Safety Awareness **Press Conference**:

- Thursday, February 8th
- 11:00 a.m.
- Grant Avenue @ Bush Street, Gate to Chinatown

Immediately following the press conference, volunteers, SAFE and the SFPD will walk the streets of Chinatown and provide Asian merchants and residents with educational information on preventing extortion, robbery, burglary, shoplifting and pick-pocketing crimes during the forthcoming festival celebrations. This is a city-wide campaign involving police officers of all Police

Districts in San Francisco and volunteers from a number of public agencies and Community-Based Organizations, reminding the public to be aware of crime and to make prompt police reports about criminal and suspicious activities.

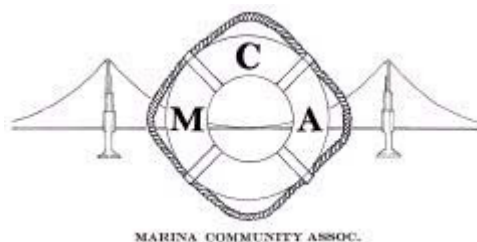
This will be the **10th Annual Lunar New Year Public Safety Awareness Campaign** with joint collaboration by SAFE and the SFPD. Since the launching of the first campaign in 1998, we have achieved a significant drop in extortions targeting Asian merchants. In this year's campaign, SAFE will also emphasize its efforts and message about the effective prevention of Human Trafficking.

The campaign is a great example of **Community Policing**, encouraging merchants and residents to get to know the police officers in their neighborhood, and to be aware of ways to help prevent crime. This year, SAFE and Captain Jim Dudley of Central Station will recognize Lt. Alvin Yee for his excellent police work in Chinatown - He sets a great example!

Thank you to the SFPD and the Asian Firefighters Association for sponsoring this campaign, and to all participants including: San Francisco Chief of Police, Heather Fong; the San Francisco Police Commission; President of the Board of Supervisors, Aaron Peskin; Supervisor Ed Jew; Captain James Dudley; Russell J. Giuntini, Chief Assistant District Attorney; Kavitha Sreeharsha of API Legal Outreach; Lt. Mary Petrie, SFPD Vice Unit; Asian Firefighters Association President, Lt. Patricia Yuen; California Department of Corrections; Community Youth Center (CYC); US Postal Inspection Service; American Red Cross Youth for Elderly Bay Area Chapter; Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services; Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice; Safety Network; and City College San Francisco AmeriCorps.

If you would like to volunteer with SAFE by distributing crime prevention educational materials on February 8th, please email pam@sfsafe.org.

[Lunar New Year 2007](#)



SAFE + NERT = Improved Emergency Preparedness & Planning

Are you involved in a SAFE Neighborhood Watch Group? Are you

trained as a member of NERT? If you are involved in one, or both, we are looking to further empower our communities by building a stronger force between SAFE and NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) participants. Both SAFE and NERT encourage everyone to learn about Neighborhood Watch organizing, and about preparing for a natural or man-made disaster. **Get to know your neighbors!**

Send an email to cindy@sfsafe.org if you would like to share your contact information for the SAFE / NERT Partnership. Let us know if you are a SAFE Neighborhood Watch Block Captain or NERT leader.

Several neighborhoods are already taking the lead in this combined partnership:

Marina Community Association - MCA is a group of residents committed to organizing their community in order to be better prepared for an emergency. Included in the MCA are residents located within the area bounded by Lyon Street, Lombard Street and Richardson Street, Van Ness Ave. and Marina Boulevard. If you reside within these boundaries, the MCA is urging you to become involved. Please direct all questions to marina.94123@gmail.com or write to the MCA at: Marina Community Association, 1517 North Point #531, San Francisco, CA 94123.

Hayes Valley NERT & District 5 Emergency Planning Committee - Help Prepare your Neighborhood for an Emergency! San Francisco District 5 Emergency Preparedness Committee is a grassroots effort to organize and develop a neighborhood disaster response that compliments the City and County of San Francisco's larger Emergency Operations Plan. For more information, please contact D5, NERT and Emergency Preparedness Committee volunteer coordinators Jamie Lopez at mail@hayesvalleynert.org or John D'Avolio at johnd@triggerfish.org.

It's the neighborhood taking care of the neighborhood.

When individuals and their neighborhoods are prepared to mutually assist each other immediately after a disaster, lives can be saved, property can be spared and emergency services can focus on responding to the most devastated areas. Join the committee to increase neighborhood emergency preparation and create a plan that will make the most of neighborhood resources and address specific vulnerabilities.

Neighborhood-based trainings are offered for free by NERT. Plus, you can contact SAFE to organize a Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch or Community Watch group.

Stay tuned for condensed Personal Preparedness and Neighborhood Watch

organizing trainings in your police district.

[NERT Information](#)

Neighborhood Watch Success Stories

Neighborhood Watch groups are the essence of Community Policing because neighbors are empowered to increase communication with the police, and learn about effective ways to prevent crime in their neighborhood. The following Neighborhood Watch groups are organized by SAFE's Crime Prevention Specialist, Jon Shepherd, in the Mission Police District:



- **A resident on the 3900 block of 20th Street established a SAFE Neighborhood Watch group to address concerns about how to be effective in accessing 9-1-1 when faced with auto boosting (breaking into an auto to steal) and other criminal activities. In sixty days the group expanded three more blocks and learned how to observe and report suspicious activities, use 9-1-1 effectively, and organized a block map and telephone communication tree. The results in that short time have been prompt police response, arrests of auto boosters, and an arrest of a drunk driver damaging several cars parked on the block. Also, firefighters were quickly summoned to a house fire. Over fifty neighborhood residents are now actively participating and serving as the "eyes and ears" for the police. Thank you to the residents of this area and Captain John Goldberg and his officers for excellent community policing efforts and for empowering the neighborhood to play an active role in their safety.**
- **On Vicksburg Street, which was plagued with multiple burglaries, the residents of the SAFE Neighborhood Watch group now effectively observe and report criminal and suspicious activities. Following SAFE presentations on personal and home safety, a resident observed a man suspiciously looking into house windows. The resident correctly called 9-1-1 describing the man and behavior observed. The police quickly arrived, taking the man into custody. Several Neighborhood Watch group members received residential security assessments, and they are now**

reinforcing their homes to make them safer and more burglar-resistant. Again, a block map and telephone communication tree allow the group to be more successful in observing and reporting suspicious, criminal and strange activities, as well as more knowledgeable in accessing emergency, police, fire and medical services.

[Neighborhood Watch](#)

Crime Alerts & Other News

- **Utility Burglars in the Central Police District** - The suspects use the ruse of posing as water company or utility workers who gain entry to test the water pipes. As one worker pretends to examine the water, another rifles through the victim's bedroom, taking cash and other valuables. If you see such suspects, deny them entry and call 911.
- **Counterfeit Bills** - Police are alerting the public of the increasing number of counterfeit bills being passed in San Francisco. There have been reports of counterfeit \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills being circulated and that are received by unsuspecting victims. Many of these bills have been passed at businesses throughout the city. In one recent case, a victim placed an ad on Craigslist to sell a Sony Play Station3 and received 12 counterfeit \$100 bills, all in this case with the same serial number. Visit the SFPD website page, [Alert on Counterfeit Bills](#), to find out what to look for for when you suspect a bill may be counterfeit.
- **Community Policing Workshops in the Lower Haight Neighborhood** - The Lower Haight Neighborhood will be partnering with SAFE and the Northern District Police Station to conduct a series of workshops to train residents and merchants effective community policing practices and how to identify and report suspicious and criminal activities. These workshops are funded by a grant from the Mayor's Community Support Fund.
- **Castro Community On Patrol** - Castro neighbors and friends have organized to volunteer to walk the streets on the weekends to promote safety awareness with police officers from Mission Station. CCOP volunteers are well-trained to observe and report suspicious activities. In addition to the walking patrols, this group provides free whistles to encourage citizens to take action by alerting others when a crime situation takes place. More volunteers are needed. Contact castrocommunityonpatrol@comcast.net for more information and training dates.
- **Be a SAFE Volunteer!** - SAFE is recruiting volunteers to help with general office duties, data entry, fundraising, research and much more! Internships and Service Learning students are also welcome to join the SAFE Team. Email [SAFE](#) to find out more.

[Neighborhood News](#)

SAFE is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. You can help us to provide essential crime prevention and public safety services by making a tax-deductible donation, either by check or clicking on the JustGive link below. Please check out our website, www.sfsafe.org, for updates and information! Thank you for helping us to create safer neighborhoods!



Be SAFE!
--The Staff & Board of SAFE

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

[Click here](#) to forward this email to a friend

San Francisco SAFE, Inc.
850 Bryant Street
Hall of Justice Room 135
San Francisco, California 94103

(415) 673-SAFE
www.sfsafe.org



[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.