

Happy New Year

Happy 2007! The Staff and Board of SAFE hope that your Holidays were joyous, and that your year ahead is safe, happy and healthy! If you are making any New Year's Resolutions, remember to include learning more about personal safety, crime prevention and emergency preparedness. This resolution should be easy... and will only help you to be safer at home, at work or while out about this year!



SAFE Takes Action for Chinese New Year!

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 at the Gate to Chinatown, Grant Avenue @ Bush on Thursday, February 8, 2007. We will provide Asian merchants and residents with educational information on preventing extortion, robbery, burglary, shoplifting and pickpocketing 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 1997 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!

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

[Lunar New Year Safety Campaign](#)

The Importance of Business Watch



Many residents in San Francisco know about SAFE's Neighborhood Watch Program. But did you know that SAFE also offers services to merchants and businesses? Utilizing the same concept as Neighborhood Watch, SAFE will organize and facilitate meetings with merchants to form a customized Business Watch group in their community. Forming a Business Watch group is highly effective for sharing information on crime prevention techniques, crime trends, enhancing security and safety, and improving communication with the police department. One great example of a successful Business Watch is that of the group in Union Square. Their commitment to organize and keep the area safer has led to increased collaboration with the police department and more communication with neighboring businesses on criminal activities or suspects. Business

Watch is a free program, but SAFE also offers more in-depth services to businesses for a small fee. These services include Security Assessments, Workplace Violence Prevention Trainings, Lockdown Prevention Trainings, and other types of business-related crime prevention presentations. Contact the SAFE office for more information.

[Business Watch Information](#)

Crime Alerts

These alerts are for your information. To find out more, please contact your district police station.

- **Robbery** - occurs when something is taken from you using force or fear. It can be a "pursuit snatching" or a "hold-up" in a store. Robberies occur throughout the city, but what SAFE strives to do is educate residents and merchants on how to help prevent robberies from happening, and what to do if they are a victim of robbery. More times than not, SAFE will provide services to those who have already been victimized. If there have been a number of robberies in a certain neighborhood over a short period of time, SAFE will encourage the residents or merchants to start a Neighborhood Watch or Business Watch group. We will also provide you with personal safety education, and can schedule a business security assessment or training.

ROBBERY ALERT IN BERNAL HEIGHTS (From Capt. Paul Chignell):

"Due to recent robberies of business establishments in the Bernal and OMI areas, we are asking folks to keep an eye out for a blue mini-van occupied by young African-American males with gloves and pullover sweatshirts. If you see a suspicious vehicle with suspects as described near business establishments or acting strangely near businesses, call us. We have also reallocated our foot patrol from lower Mission to Cortland Avenue during the night time hours."

- **Burglary** - occurs when a building or dwelling is entered with the intent to commit the crime. Residential burglaries also occur throughout the city, whether it's a single-family home or apartment or condominium building. There are many techniques that will help abate residential burglaries, and SAFE encourages you to communicate with the police station on burglary trends and talk to SAFE about best practices for preventing this type of crime.

Knowledge is power, and the more you know about how to effectively prevent crime, observe and report suspicious activities, and communicate with the police, the more powerful you will be in making your neighborhood safer. By clicking on the link below, you can find out when your Police District Captain holds his/her monthly community meetings, sign up for their email crime reports, and visit the police department's CrimeMAPS system.

[Neighborhood News](#)

Kids & Cops Program Starts in SOMA!



The highly successful "Kids & Cops" Program is expanding to offer services at two sites. SAFE will continue to coordinate the after-school reading program for 8-10 year-olds at North Beach Place and will be starting a new program for the South of Market Child Care Center (SOMACC). SAFE will work together with Captain Denis O'Leary from the Southern District Police Station and the staff at SOMACC to implement eight weeks of safety presentations and reading activities for pre-school age children. The program will run Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and will serve close to 50 children. The goals of the project include: develop trust and meaningful relationships between kids and the police; engage kids

in activities with the police so they will feel more comfortable and have a better understanding about an officer's role in the community; promote literacy; and educate kids about safety. There will also be a parent component the last Friday of each month at SOMACC.

"Kids & Cops" is motivated by a recognized need to keep children safe, educate children about safety, and provide opportunities for police officers to build positive relationships in the communities they serve. The program at both locations was made possible by a generous donation from the San Francisco Police Officer's Association, and a grant from Target.

For more information or to volunteer please contact Oona Gilles-Weil, Kids and Cops Coordinator 415-553-1052, or oonas@sfsafe.org.

[Kids & Cops](#)

SAFE Teams up with Tenderloin Health for Increased Safety

Safety starts at the workplace for Tenderloin Health. SAFE has teamed up with Tenderloin Health at the 100 block of Golden Gate Avenue to make workplace safety a priority for their employees and clients. SAFE has provided consultation to improve building security, enhance communication with emergency services for optimal responsiveness, and lead discussion on how Tenderloin Health can initiate Neighborhood Watch.

Tenderloin Health, formerly TARC, serves Tenderloin residents and the community who are homeless or marginally housed having a history of chaotic alcohol or drug use or have a history of mental illness living or engaging in high risk activities for HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis.

Other News

- **New SAFE Board Members** - SAFE welcomes the addition of two new members to its Board of Directors: Lynn Walker and Jed Lane. Lynn has been a direct recipient of SAFE's services over the years by forming and continuing a Neighborhood Watch group on her block. She brings a strong passion and knowledge of crime prevention and community building to the SAFE team. Jed is a real estate broker and has a wealth of experience in understanding the importance of safer home streets and neighborhoods. SAFE is excited to have Lynn and Jed on our Board!

● **Police Commission Meeting Regarding Public Safety Cameras** - The San Francisco Police Commission will hold a hearing on January 17, 2007, to provide an additional opportunity for community opinion on the topic. The hearing will be held at City Hall, Room 400, at 5:30 PM. For more information call (415) 553-1667.

● **Homicides Down in 2006** - A recent report stated that San Francisco's homicides were at 85 in 2006, down from 96 in the previous year.

● **Mid-Year SAFE Report** - From July 1 through December 31, 2006, SAFE accomplished the following: 20 New Neighborhood Watch Groups; 5 New Business Watch Groups; 101 Safe Presentations for Adults, Older Adults, and Children, including topics on Vehicle Safety; Residential Security Surveys, 16 Presentations; 28 Business Security Surveys, 45 Presentations; Workplace Violence Prevention Trainings; and numerous Community Policing activities and events including the "Kids & Cops" Program and the Bicycle Safety Fair.

● **SAFE has a Wishlist!** As a non-profit continuing to maintain a high level of quality service, there are actually times when we wish we had a little something extra to make our services even more effective. New items to our wishlist include: Digital Camera for our Residential and Business Security Assessments; Color Printer for educational materials; and office supplies. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law, and will be noted on SAFE's website and newsletter. Every little bit helps!

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!



Happy New Year!
--The Staff and Board of SAFE

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