



Dear SAFE Friends and Supporters:

In today's fast-paced world of technology and busy schedules, parents and care-givers face a difficult challenge in keeping their children and youth safe. It is important to keep up to date on all new information and advice that can be useful in safety awareness and prevention. Even if you think that it is all common knowledge, a little review never hurts.

- Make sure your kids know how to contact the police department, fire department or ambulance by dialing 911; Keep important numbers by the phone in the case of an emergency.
- Do practice drills with "what to do" scenarios on how to answer the phone or answer the front door in the event that children are home alone.
- For younger children, make very clear that a stranger is someone that neither you nor they know well.
- If your child/teen is going to be out with friends make sure you know who they are with and have contact information for their parent/guardian(s).
- Get familiar with your child's friends and favorite hang out spots. This will help you to positively influence your child as well as build a stronger relationship.
- Stress the importance of not getting into a stranger's car, no matter what they say. For teens: parents should insist that they not get into a car with someone who has been drinking or doing drugs. Give the option of calling home for a ride NO MATTER WHAT, or provide emergency taxi fare.
- It is important for parents to talk to their children, especially teens, about the effects of drugs and alcohol.
- Always keep lines of communication honest and open.
- Teach them about personal safety and awareness, especially if they ride public transportation or carry an iPod.

For more safety tips click on the link below:

[Safety Tips](#)

SAFE Welcomes Elly Mayen

Elly has just joined SAFE as the new Public Safety Coordinator, focusing on child and youth safety. Her background is in criminal justice and child care services. She has served as an advocate and mentor to children and youth both at risk and in the foster care system, as well as a child care worker in residential intensive services.



"My goal is to work with both communities and organizations city-wide to create a greater sense of awareness. Through the Kids and Cops program, which helps to bridge the gap between police officers and children, the hope is to enhance relationships between them and empower the kids to build safer communities. Safety awareness presentations for kids and adults, and neighborhood watch organizing around schools and the communities themselves, will make our streets, schools and homes safer for children and youth. I am very excited about joining the SAFE team!"

To find out more about SAFE's child safety services or to schedule a presentation call the SAFE office at (415) 553-1984 or click the link below and send Elly a message

[Send Elly a message](#)

First Quarterly Neighborhood Watch Block Captains & Leaders Meeting is here!



The first Quarterly Neighborhood Watch Block Captain and Leaders meeting is finally here! If you are a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain or Leader then join us Thursday, March 27, 2008.

These meetings are excellent opportunities for all of the Neighborhood Watch Block Captains and Leaders to meet and network with one another. This is a chance to meet other Block Captains, share stories about Neighborhood Watch group successes, and learn about effective, sustainable ways to conduct and continue your groups.

You spoke and we listened! The results from the Neighborhood Watch Block Captain and Leaders Surveys are in and will be announced at the March 27th meeting. In an effort to get a better understanding of the needs and interests of the existing Neighborhood Watch groups, SAFE sent out a survey to give us a better idea of how active the groups are, who has been NERT trained, who has received Neighborhood Watch signs, as well as what type of trainings and discussion topics the attendees would like to receive more information about. There's still time to fill out the survey... Click on the link to the survey and get it back to us - [Click Here for Survey](#)

Meeting Information:

- Thursday, March 27, 2008
- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

- First Unitarian Universalist Church & Center Martin Luther King Room, 1187 Franklin St. @ Geary Blvd.
- RSVP by March 17th to (415) 553-1968 or to SAFEleaders@sfsafe.org

Food & Refreshments will be served

We are currently seeking Sponsors & Donors for the Block Captain & Leaders meeting - your support will be widely acknowledged and will help with refreshments, meeting space and materials. Call Irina at (415) 553-1968 for more information.

If you have a Neighborhood Watch Sign.... this meeting is especially important - we want our groups to remain active and involved!

Are you a new Neighborhood Watch Block Captain or Leader and don't know about this meeting? Click on the link below to learn more about Neighborhood Watch and the upcoming Meetings.

[Neighborhood Watch](#)



NERT Disaster Preparedness

San Francisco's NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) is coordinating with SAFE to provide free Personal Preparedness Workshops & Block Captain Trainings. Workshops will cover personal disaster planning, risk awareness, disaster supplies and block captain information.

They are about 3 hours long and will count towards the Personal Preparedness component of your full NERT Training.

Workshops will be held at the SFFD Division of Training, 2310 Folsom Street @ 19th Street.

- Wednesday, March 12th, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 15th, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

You can RSVP to sffdnert@sfgov.org or call (415) 970-2024 to register. Click on the link below for all of NERT's Trainings and information.

[NERT Trainings & Information](#)

Neighborhood Watch Connections
SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IN MISSION DISTRICT PARTNERS WITH DPW
TO ADDRESS TWO PERSISTENT CONCERNS AT ONCE

by Jon Shepherd, SAFE Crime Prevention Specialist

The SAFE Neighborhood Watch on the 100 block of Albion Street and Camp Street are dealing with several persistent quality-of-life issues on its blocks: street cleaning and graffiti abatement. Last month the group decided to partner with San Francisco's Department of Public Works for neighborhood clean ups, cleaning supplies and help in reporting and preventing garbage dumping. The Department of Public Works Adopt-a-Street is designed to help city residents working to maintain clean, safe and beautiful streets, sidewalks and parks. At this Neighborhood Watch group's upcoming March meeting, resident members will decide on details for their next steps.

Neighborhood Watch groups wishing to participate with the Department of Public Works Adopt-a-Street Program should contact Ms. Merle Goldstone, 2323 Ceasar Chavez Street, San Francisco, CA 94124-1091, Merle.Goldstone@sfdpw.org, Tel: (415) 641-2625, Fax: (415) 641-2625.

This is a great partnership between the community and a City Department, and shows that organizing through Neighborhood Watch groups is beneficial for safer and cleaner communities!

[Form a Neighborhood Watch!](#)

Safety during the St. Patrick's Day Festivities



Everyone seems to be Irish during St. Patrick's Day! People are out enjoying the parade, the festivities, and possibly consuming green beer. If you partake in the latter, stay safe by choosing a designated driver, take public transportation or catch a cab. Keep your drink with you at all times, and only accept drinks directly from the bartender.

Practice Personal Safety by always being aware of your surroundings; carry only the necessary cash and credit cards with you; keep these valuable items concealed; stay in well-lighted, well-traveled areas; and make sure a friend knows your whereabouts at all times.

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!

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using **Just Give**

Be SAFE!
-The Staff and Board of SAFE