



Newsletter

Greetings SAFE Friends & Supporters,

November 2007

Personal & Property Safety... Now and through the Season

What's the most common concern for kids these days regarding safety? iPod Theft!!! At a recent presentation on personal safety for high-school youth, more than half of the students expressed concerns about having their iPods or cell phones forcefully taken from them.

Now that the Holiday and gift-giving season are upon us, many youth and adults will be the lucky recipients of iPods or new cell phones. On the flip side, many thieves will relish in the opportunity to steal iPods from unsuspecting victims. Do not be a victim! We want you to be on the SAFE side... so follow some of these safety tips, and pass them along to those who have iPods, MP3 players, headphones, cell phones, etc. Here are just a few tips:

- Replace the distinctive white earbuds with older headphones to give the impression you have a cheaper music player
- Keep the volume low
- Keep only one earbud on - the other ear will be free to hear activities around you
- Stay alert at all times - your sense of hearing is diminished, so scan the area with your eyes frequently & look frequently look behind you
- Record the serial number of your iPod, or engrave it with identifying information
- If you feel you are being followed, go to a crowded place, ask for help and call police
- Do not walk alone at night - but if you must, travel in well-lighted areas and don't use your iPod!

[Visit SAFE's Website for more Safety Tips](#)

One City, Many SAFE Neighborhoods!

On October 11, 2007, SAFE celebrated active and diverse Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch groups that strive to make our communities safer. Their stories remind us that getting to know your neighbors and taking action to address crime and quality-of-life issues can make a positive impact on your neighborhood... and on your city! Visit more Gala 2007 photos [HERE](#).



- **Connect with SAFE** and start a Neighborhood Watch group
- **Get to know your neighbors** and establish an effective communications network
- **Learn how to effectively observe, identify and report** suspicious activities
- **Empower yourself and your neighbors** to make your block and your community safer
- **Learn about resources** that can assist you in your crime prevention and safety efforts

- FORM A NEIGHBORHOOD OR BUSINESS WATCH GROUP -

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NERT Personal Preparedness Workshop

Attention all Block Captains & Neighborhood Watch Groups! NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) is hosting a 3-hour Personal Preparedness Workshop & Block Captain Training with SAFE.

- November 14, 2007
- 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
- SFFD Division of Training
- 2310 Folsom St.

or

- November 26, 2007
- 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
- SFFD Division of Training
- 2310 Folsom St.

This workshop will count towards the full NERT Training.

Click [Here](#) to view the Training flyer. RSVP to sffdner@sf.gov or (415) 972-2024.

Bernal Safety Meeting

SAFE will be giving a Personal Safety Workshop which will include tips on how to avoid situations of potential danger, how to be aware of your surroundings, and how to be a good witness.

- Wednesday, November 14, 2007
- 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center
- 515 Cortland Ave.

Are you a SAFE Neighborhood Watch Block Captain? Stay tuned for more information and how to get involved in our new Block Captain meetings and Citizen Advisory Committee. Send your updated information to cindy@sfsafe.org.

Neighborhood Watch "Spin-Off"!

By Jon Shepherd, SAFE Crime Prevention Specialist

Block Captain Sharon Ranals has just "spun off" the 300 Block of Highland Avenue Neighborhood Watch from another group which formed over a year ago on Holly Park Circle. This active Neighborhood Watch group, which formed so "neighbors could get to know each other" around Holly Park, was just around the corner from Ms. Ranal's house. Intrigued by their new knowledge about crime prevention and public safety, Ms. Ranal is now forming her own new group on Highland Avenue for the same reasons.

Ms. Ranal's Neighborhood Watch group had a dozen neighbors who identified and prioritized several quality-of-life issues effecting the 300 Block of Highland Ave. They will learn to effectively access resources and will begin to address their concerns by the time they have their second meeting in December. Block resident, Ron Merk, is making his home theatre freely available for meetings, since it can easily accommodate up to forty persons.

A "spin off" of this kind creates momentum. They are working to get all of the Highland Ave. residents to participate in meetings together on the block, as well as reach out to a new group which is forming across the park on another block of Highland. Eventually all these blocks could form a useful network to address crime and public safety concerns, such as emergency preparedness.

Who knows? Perhaps, in another year, the entire Holly Park community will be organized with active Neighborhood Watch Groups. Call SAFE at 553-1984 to form your own group, "spin off" or otherwise, wherever you are in the city.

Do you Feel Safe in your Park?

Parks are a favorite place to play, run, walk, read, or enjoy a sunny day. Some parks, however, are havens for criminal activities, or need a desperate clean-up. The beauty and safety of our parks can increase our sense of community and can allow us to further enjoy the outdoors. SAFE advocates for safer parks, and urges those who enjoy them to learn about personal safety techniques.

After Daylight Savings time occurs this weekend, it will get dark earlier in the evening. Many of you utilize your time after work to walk the dog or go for a run outside. Whether you do this in a nearby park or in the neighborhood, please practice personal safety techniques.

On November 14th, hear from organizations that have transformed parks from Drug Dealing thoroughfares to playgrounds that attract toddlers through Neighborhood Watch programs, community partnerships, private security, Park Patrol, beautification projects, programming and more! Learn park safety strategies from a panel of Safety Experts representing SF SAFE, Safety Network, SF Rec & Park Dept. Park Patrol, Mission Neighborhood Resource Center, South Park Neighborhood Improvement Association and others!

- Wednesday, November 14, 2007
- 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- City Hall, Room 278

Park Safety Strategies, Neighborhood Parks Council Monthly Coalition Meeting. Visit <http://www.sfnpc.org/coalitionmeetings> for more information and to download meeting notice! Please RSVP to (415) 621-3260 or cgood@sfnpc.org.

Other SAFE News

- **Sports Memorabilia Sale** - Tuesday, December 11th, and Wednesday,

December 12th at the SAFE Office. Find that perfect gift for the Sports Fan in your life!

- **SAFE Shoppers & Merchants** - Be sure to check out these Safety Tips for consumers and merchants during the Holiday Shopping Season. Visit [Holiday Safety Tips](#) for Safety Tips & Brochures.
- **Central Market Public Safety Meeting** - Hosted by the Central Market Community Benefit District. If you live or work in the Central Market area, be sure to come to this seminar on November 8th. [Click Here for Flyer.](#)
- **CCOP 1st Anniversary** - Castro Community on Patrol is celebrating their first anniversary. CCOP is a volunteer citizen walking patrol program in the Castro. Visit <http://www.castropatrol.org/> for volunteer information & training.
- **DCYF Regional Workforce** Development system for youth workers in the Bay Area. November 16th, 8:30 to 5:30 at the Regency Center. Visit <http://www.dcyf.org/> for more information.
- **SAFE is Hiring!** - Join the SAFE Team as a Crime Prevention Specialist, with an emphasis on Child Safety. Click [HERE](#) for the Job Description.

[Forward this Newsletter to a Friend!](#) | (415) 553-1984