



Community Focus

Mark your calendars for National Pollution Prevention (P2) Week September 21-27, 1998



Pollution Prevention Week (P2 Week) began in 1992 in California at the local grass roots level. The third week of September was designated as Pollution Prevention Week by local government officials and organization heads throughout California to promote and highlight pollution prevention (P2) efforts. Since then, celebration of this week has spread throughout the country. In 1995, the event moved to the national level and has continued to grow.

P2 Week has become a valuable opportunity for government agencies, business groups, and community organizations to work together to highlight the importance of pollution prevention. The week provides a chance to publicize year-long P2 efforts.

P2 Week is also a time when businesses, government, environmental groups and citizens can join forces for a common cause. By sharing information about P2, businesses can become more competitive, business and government can realize cost savings and environmental quality can be enhanced.

So...just what is pollution prevention?

Pollution is the contamination of air, soil, and/or water by the discharge of harmful substances. Pollution prevention is the reduction/elimination of pollution at the source, instead of at the end-of-the-pipe or stack. Pollution prevention occurs when raw materials, water, energy and other resources are utilized more efficiently. For example less harmful substances are substituted for hazardous ones, and toxic substances are eliminated from the production process. By reducing the use and production of hazardous substances, and by operating more efficiently, we protect human health, strengthen our economic well-being, and preserve the environment.

Source reduction allows for the greatest and quickest improvements in environmental protection by avoiding the generation of waste and harmful emissions. It makes the regulatory system more efficient by reducing the need for end-of-the-pipe environmental control by government.

Adopting pollution prevention practices and techniques often benefits industry by lowering a company's operational and environmental compliance costs. By preventing the generation of waste, P2 also can reduce or eliminate long-term liabilities and clean-up costs.

Furthermore, disposal costs are reduced when the volume of waste is decreased. This also can lead to a reduction in workplace exposures to hazardous materials which can affect workers' health and hence, their productivity. If less waste is produced, there will be a diminished need for on-site storage space. By preventing pollution, there will be a greater likelihood that a company may be in compliance with local, state, and federal compliance statutes.

Finally, businesses shoulder an important responsibility for protecting the environment and natural resources for their own good and that of society.

So, as P2 Week rolls around, plan an event that will show off your organization's activities.

Ideas for businesses and industry might include:

- Distribute promotional materials of your current activities.
- Distribute industry-specific P2 fact sheets.
- Organize a "clean shop" tour.
- Host a brown bag lunch or breakfast seminar on P2.
- Organize a contest to reward employees for developing P2 ideas.
- Tell other businesses about your P2 activities.
- Evaluate existing waste practices and P2 options.
- Watch for group activities in which you can participate.

For more information, contact Phil Rooney, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 441-8644. (Resource: National Pollution Prevention Roundtable) (ALH)

Prevent crime the pro-active way: organize a Neighborhood Watch Program

Neighborhood watch is a program to help residents protect themselves and their property. It is not a program of vigilante actions nor does it use citizens to actually enforce the laws. It is about establishing a network of eyes and ears for the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department. Through a system of training and organizing neighborhoods, citizens become alert to suspicious activity and take an active role in reducing crime.

Organizing a Neighborhood Watch

1. Visit with friends and neighbors to determine their interest and support for a Neighborhood Watch Program.
2. Contact the Crime Prevention Division of the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department (Deputy Emanuel Bartek, 441-7727) to organize a meeting (main non-emergency phone number 441-6500).
3. Determine an organizational meeting date and time. Usually these meetings are held at the home of the organizer.
4. During the meeting, the Lancaster County Sheriff's

Department will provide:

- A deputy to explain the Neighborhood Watch Program and answer questions.
- Assistance in selecting a coordinator for your area—usually the person who organizes the meeting.

(A color TV should be available for use during the meeting.)

5. If an easily defined area exists for a Neighborhood Watch Program to operate, the Sheriff's Department will post Neighborhood Watch signs. An area map of people from the neighborhood should be supplied.

The services of a Neighborhood Watch

1. During the organizational meeting, the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department will compile a list of participants and distribute additional information to all members in the watch area.
2. Once all guidelines are met, Neighborhood Watch signs will be posted.
3. When the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department has information pertinent to your neighborhood watch area, the



coordinator will be notified. The coordinator will forward the information on to neighborhood watch members. (i.e., a certain car or person to watch for, etc.)

4. If a neighborhood watch member has something to report, they are to phone the Sheriff's Department directly.

5. Newsletters from the Sheriff's Department are distributed through the neighborhood watch coordinator to the members.

6. Neighborhood Watch groups can organize various networks of communication between members as deemed necessary. (GB)

Identifying suspicious activity

Not every stranger who comes into your neighborhood is a criminal by any means. There are many door-to-door salesmen, repairmen, and servicemen moving around our neighborhoods all the time, but criminals *do* take advantage of this by pretending to be legitimate workmen. The Sheriff's Office would rather investigate than be called when it is too late. Your call could save a life, prevent an injury, or stop a criminal act. **Be alert. Be concerned and call.**

Suspicious Activity Concerning Persons	
Circumstances	Possible Crime
Going door to door in a residential area especially if one or more persons goes to the rear of the residence.	Possible burglary suspects or trespassers.
Waiting or loitering in front of a house or business, if the business is closed or house unoccupied.	Possible burglary suspects.
Forcing entrance, or entering your neighbor's house, when it is unoccupied.	Possible burglary, theft or trespassing.
Property carried by persons on foot, especially suspicious at an unusual place or hour. Very questionable if person is running or property is unwrapped.	Possible property just stolen in burglary or robbery.
Much human traffic to and from a certain residence, if it occurs on a daily or regular basis.	Possible vice, fence or narcotics operation.
Person screaming.	Possible rape or assault.
Person loitering around cars or going car to car peering into them, especially in parking lot or on the streets.	Possible car thief or a theft from automobile.
Persons loitering around schools, parks or secluded areas.	Possible sex offenders or drug activity.
Persons offering items for sale at a very low price.	Possibly trying to sell stolen property.
Strangers loitering or driving through a neighborhood several times.	Possible burglary or larceny suspects.
"Delivery Man" with the wrong address, or one who asks if someone else lives there.	Possible burglary suspect.
Vehicle moving slowly, without lights or driving in an aimless manner. This is suspicious in any location, including residential streets, schools and playgrounds.	Possible burglar, drug pusher or sex offender.
Parked or occupied vehicles containing one or more persons, especially if observed at an unusual hour.	Possible lookouts for a burglary or robbery.
Vehicles being loaded with valuables if parked by a business or unoccupied residence.	Possible burglary or theft in progress.
Abandoned vehicle parked on your block.	Possible stolen car.
Vehicle containing weapons.	Owner may be engaged in criminal activity.
Vehicle where someone is being forced into it, especially females or juveniles.	Possible kidnapping, assault or attempted rape.
Vehicle where a business transaction is being conducted around schools or parks.	Possibly selling stolen items or drugs.
Persons detaching mechanical parts or accessories from a vehicle.	Possible theft or vandalism.

