GET TRAINING – We think EVERYONE should have some formal self-defense training from a reputable source. It doesn't have to be a ten-year martial arts black belt course, thought that would be very useful in some circumstances. Training helps you to prepare for an unexpected threat, and it offers you options in responding to any threat.

PERSONAL ALARM – Everyone should carry a personal alarm with them at all times. This small device emits a piercing sound when activated and may dissuade an attacker, and attract assistance at the same time.

PEPPER SPRAY – Consider carrying and training in the use of pepper spray. Pepper spray can be a very effective self-defense tool in a bad situation, and may give you enough time to run to safety.

CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL DEVICE – CED's (more commonly known by the brand name TASER) offer another effective defensive tool in a bad situation. Again, they require training to use them effectively in a stressful situation.

DISCLAIMER

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided and discussed in this brochure. At the time of printing and presentation this material is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate however sometimes anomalies, omissions, and factual errors may exist. This brochure may be modified at any time without prior notice either in part or in full.

Community Patrol Service is a not-for-profit group run entirely by unpaid volunteers.

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COMMUNITY PATROL SERVICE

EZ-DEFENSE PROGRAM

INTERNET SAFETY FOR KIDS

"Building Safer Neighborhoods by Collaborating on Community Safety and Security"

ESTABLISHED IN 1998

Understanding the potential threats inherent in an on-line presence is vital to keeping yourself, and your children and teenagers safe.

The FBI estimates there may be as many as 50,000 predators on line at any given moment. On-line does not merely mean when you or your children are sitting in front of a computer as smart phones, ipads and other devices provide the on-line experience in many different forms.

Predation can take many forms, from bullying to sexually inappropriate material. Just as many adults are susceptible to the friendships and "special offer" temptations of the internet, children are often more at risk as they are often more trusting and less suspicious of motives.

In a 2003 Department of Justice report:

- 1 in 7 kids, 10-17 years old, were sexually solicited on-line.

- 70% of those solicitations happened on a home computer with the remainder occurring at a friend's home. Mobile devices may have changed this pattern significantly.

- 49% of kids surveyed did not tell anyone about being solicited online. The main reason they provided for not telling was fear their computer access would be removed or restricted by parents.

Talk with your kids and teens about internet safety and the dangers that exist on-line. Encourage them to tell you about anything that makes them uncomfortable or makes them uneasy. Reassure them it is not their fault if they are solicited, find a site that upsets them or if they are bullied online.

Remind them that, just as school, college, and everyday life around them has good people, bad people, friends and those not so friendly, cool things they're interested in and bad things they should avoid; the internet is exactly the same. They need to use caution and care to avoid being hurt or running into trouble.

Be an ally to your kids and teens in their progressive learning about the internet, web sites and social media. Make sure you know what applications they are using, who they are chatting with and how often.

Discuss ahead of time some of the dangers or uncomfortable things they may see or experience, and come up with a plan together to allow your kid or teen to bring such things up with you if they happen.

Be sure to report all instances of on-line bullying, sexual solicitation, inappropriate comments or suggestions, and fraud activity to police. Your report will help police to build a better picture of what is happening and perhaps identify and arrest those responsible. It may also help keep other kids and teens safe if police believe they should publicize the threat.

There are many excellent resources and organizations working in this specific area, so rather than replicate their great work, we'll simply suggest some referrals and further reading for you.

http://childrescuenetwork.org/keepingchildren-safe/internet-safety/

http://www.gcflearnfree.org/internetsafetyforkids

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/internet-safety-tips-for-elementaryschool-kids

http://www.netsmartz.org/internetsafety

http://www.kidpower.org/

http://www.teachaid.org/internet_safety/

http://www.netliteracy.org/safeconnects/collateral-material/

http://www.safechild.org/new/

http://kidsonline.com/

If you find a broken link, or know of a web site we should recommend in the list above, please contact us.