

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Be alert!
- Get to know your neighbors and be involved in a Neighborhood Watch program
- Get to know police officers in your area
- Report suspicious activity to 911 immediately.
- Be a good witness - write down suspect and vehicle descriptions.

REPORTING CRIME

Call 911

Life or death situations
Medical emergencies
Someone is injured
To report a crime
To prevent a crime
To report a traffic accident
To report a fire

Call 311

Damaged property
Stolen property
Add information to a report

Online Reporting

Theft from a vehicle
Criminal damage to property
Harassing telephone calls
Larceny
Financial identity theft

HOW TO REPORT A CRIME

Guidelines to follow when calling 911:

- Report what happened and the exact location.
- Provide a detailed description.
- Remain on the telephone and stay calm.
- Be prepared to answer follow-up questions.

DETAILS TO REPORT

Locations

Exact address
Cross street
Major intersection
Mile marker
Landmark
Road number

Vehicles

Make and model
Year
Color
License plate
Marking or damage
Direction of travel
Occupants

People

Sex, age, and race
Height and weight
Hair color and style
Complexion
Scars
General appearance
Clothing
Weapon

Crime Stoppers – Anonymous tip line for concerned citizens to communicate with law enforcement to help them make an arrest or close an open case.

- 704-334-1600
- www.charlottecrimestoppers.com

RESOURCE INFORMATION

911 – For emergencies requiring Police, Fire, and/or Medic services

311 – For City and County Services (Non-emergency police calls, graffiti, truancy, parking on the lawn, etc.)

211 – Link to Health and Human Services / www.uwcentralcarolinas.org

Gang of One – 704-432-GANG (4264) / www.gangofonecharlotte.org

Vice Hotline – 704-336-8423

PATROL DIVISIONS

Central	704-336-5729	North Tryon	704-336-8398
Eastway	704-336-8535	Providence	704-943-2400
Freedom	704-398-6731	South	704-544-4835
Hickory Grove	704-567-9198	Steele Creek	704-336-7800
Independence	704-841-1477	Westover	704-432-2442
Metro	704-336-8300	University City	704-432-3900
North	704-432-3801		

SURROUNDING AREA POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Cornelius	704-892-1363	Matthews	704-847-4069
Davidson	704-892-5131	Mint Hill	704-545-1085
Huntersville	704-875-6542	Pineville	704-889-2231

For additional Crime Prevention information, visit www.cmpd.org and click on PREVENT CRIME.

Additional copies are available by contacting the:

Crime Prevention Unit
601 E. Trade Street
Charlotte, NC 28202-2940
704-336-2310

Email: crimepreventionunit@cmpd.org

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

Safety Guide

Crime Prevention is one of the most important tools in fighting crime. Preventing crime is the whole community's responsibility, not just the police.

We encourage you to take an active role in making your community safe and minimizing your chances of becoming a victim.

www.cmpd.org

BE A WISE CONSUMER

Don't be conned by a "Con Artist":

- Ask questions and listen carefully.
- Refuse to be pressured.
- Ask for things in writing.
- Read and understand any contract before you sign it.
- Check references and ask for names of past customers.
- Keep good records.

Warning signs:

- Demand immediate action ("Today Only" or "Last Chance").
- Offer to send someone to pick up payment or ask you to send it by overnight mail.
- Unwilling to provide written information.
- Tells you the deal is a secret and that you must not tell anyone.
- If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Safety Tips:

- When in doubt about a product or business, contact the Better Business Bureau.
- Be suspicious of anyone going door to door to solicit work.
- Never do business with a person who approaches you on the street.
- Never allow someone you do not know to enter in your home.
- Do not rely on the word of someone you do not know.
- Do not pay for work up front.
- Never give someone a blank check or let them help you fill it out.
- Do not enter contests, accept gifts, or prizes unless you understand your obligation.
- Do not allow your decision to be influenced by promise of quick financial reward.
- Make sure your mailbox is secure and promptly remove mail.

PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT

- Review your credit reports with the three major credit bureaus annually.
- Know who you are giving your personal information to and how it will be used.
- Minimize the amount of personal information you carry (i.e.: extra credit cards, social security card and checkbook)
- Do not place outgoing mail in your mailbox, use a secure mailbox.
- Always shred financial documents, receipts, or pre-approved credit offers before throwing them away.
- Reduce the amount of personal information in circulation by removing your name from the marketing lists of the three major credit reporting agencies.
- Never write down your passwords or PIN.
- Protect your social security number. Only release it when necessary.
- Secure personal information in your home so that it's not readily accessible to others.
- Never leave personal or financial information in your vehicle
- Use passwords to protect your cellular, utility, credit card and bank accounts.
- Do not give out your personal information through emails or online forms unless you confirm that you are dealing with a legitimately secure site.
- **Federal Trade Commission:** 1-877-ID-THEFT (438-4338) www.ftc.gov
- **Opt Out of prescreened credit card offers:** 1-888-5-OPTOUT (567-8688)

