

Chapter 5

CRIME FREE HOUSING PROGRAM

Program Goals

The BC Crime Prevention Association offers a Crime Free Multi-Housing Program in many communities across the province to:

- Facilitate cooperative, positive relationships between apartment owners, managers, residents, police and other agencies, in keeping illegal and nuisance activity off rental properties.
- Create a safer, more habitable environment for law abiding residents, through a proactive approach to crime and nuisance behaviour.
- Train apartment owners, managers and residents to know what can be done, fairly and legally, to solve problems of illegal and nuisance activity.
- Help owners and managers know how and when to use the civil process to prevent, reduce and eliminate crime and nuisance activity.
- Reduce calls for police service in apartment communities and free up police resources for other issues.

Crime Free Multi-Housing does not mean crime will be entirely eliminated, but that an apartment community will not tolerate criminal behaviour from its residents, guests, or others, and tries to create as crime free an environment as possible.

Three Key Elements

Phase I ~ Management Training

An 8-hour workshop to educate managers on how to effectively manage properties, and use legislation to stop the spread of illegal and nuisance activity on rental property.

Phase II ~ Property Security Assessment

Police assess the apartment building and property, and recommend changes and improvements. Apartments must meet the program's minimum security requirements to become certified.

Phase III ~ Resident Training

At a safety social, residents learn to work with owners, managers, police and other residents to be the eyes and ears of the apartment community.



When these three phases are successfully completed, an apartment community is certified in the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program. Reviews and annual re-certification help community members continue to meet program requirements and crime prevention goals.

Benefits

For owners and managers

- More stable and satisfied resident population.
- Increased demand for suites by desirable residents.
- Lower maintenance and repair costs.
- Improved safety.
- Improved property values.

For residents

- A safer, more pleasurable place to live.
- Owners and managers who care.
- Longer term residency.
- Community environment where neighbours help and care for one another.
- Increased sense of personal ownership.

For police

- Fewer calls for service in apartment communities.
- Time for more relevant police duties.
- Cooperation and better relationships with owners, managers and residents.

If you want to learn more about the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program, please contact the BC Crime Prevention Association at:

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