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Safety Tips to Secure Your Neighborhood

Whether you live in a densely populated urban area or a far-flung suburb, there are ways to make your neighborhood feel safer and friendlier. You can prevent crime and injury by working together with your community members and local law enforcement to address concerns such as break-ins, dangerous drivers, and safety hazards. Read on for tips from [The City of Paisley](#) to get started today.

Safety Hazards

Injuries related to falls are one of the most [common hazards](#) in residential areas. Be sure that outdoor stairs are clear of debris, well-maintained, and not slippery. If you notice broken or cracked curbs and walkways on your street, report them to your local city council right away. If you live in a shared housing community, you are a member of a homeowner's association (HOA) and should report any maintenance and security issues to the HOA board.

Fires are another common (and preventable) safety hazard. In your own home, be sure to install fire alarms, keep a fire extinguisher accessible, and monitor any open flames from candles or fireplaces. In your community, fire hazards include excessive yard waste, fallen tree limbs, and

flammable material stored near homes. If you live near a forested area, talk to your local fire department to learn more about fire safety and [wildfire prevention](#).

Break-Ins

There are many ways to prevent break-ins. First, Homewatch suggests being aware of the effects of [social media](#). Posting public updates that you are going away on vacation may not be a good idea, because potential burglars will know you're not home. Think twice about how and when you post your vacation photos, and if you [operate a business](#) out of your home, be careful not to share any information about your business, finances, and travel plans. Before you leave, talk to your neighbors, ask them to keep an eye on your home, and call you if they see anything suspicious.

Making your home less attractive to criminals can be key in preventing break-ins. According to The Guardian, [former burglars](#) noted that barking dogs and visible video cameras are the most effective deterrents. Consider installing a security camera outside your front door or in your shared community space. As for a dog, if you don't already have a four-legged friend, you can either [adopt](#) one or install a motion-sensor virtual [dog bark alarm](#) to use when you're away from home.

Dangerous Drivers

Although speed bumps and road obstacles seem like attractive ways to calm traffic, they can create other problems—such as slowing down [emergency vehicles](#), causing wear-and-tear to your car, and creating noise. You may be better off seeking the assistance of local law enforcement to address dangerous drivers. The simple presence of a patrol car can work wonders in slowing drivers down. You can also encourage local authorities to install radar signs.

DIY video surveillance is another way to reduce dangerous driving in your neighborhood. Consider setting up a visible camera in an area where many drivers disobey the speed limit. Take sample recordings of your car driving at a safe speed. This will give you a point of comparison for what speeding looks like. If you catch a commercial vehicle driving recklessly, you can use the footage to report them. While this isn't legal evidence, making the surveillance obvious can act as a deterrent for dangerous driving. If everyone living in your neighborhood knows about the camera, it may deter them from speeding as well.

There's no need to fear talking about safety concerns in your neighborhood. Working together with your community members and local law enforcement can help you nip any security issues in the bud. Just be sure to reach out to your local city council or emergency service providers if you have questions.

[The City of Paisley](#) was established in 1870 and has been providing City Services since its incorporation in 1911. We are famous for our annual Mosquito Festival which is always the last full weekend in July. Call (541) 943-3173.