



School Safety and Emergency Management

← Monthly Minute: Crime Prevention →

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Monthly Minute is a newsletter providing insight and tips on potential threats and hazards brought to you by your regional school emergency management professionals in partnership with the Oregon Department of Education.



Let's talk about a little known acronym that can have a big impact on your school's safety: **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design**, or CPTED. This might sound complex, but CPTED involves some fairly simple concepts that schools can use to prevent criminal activity.

CPTED is a practice that requires we look at the whole

school environment to find ways to reduce crime and property destruction while promoting pride in the school community. It's not just security cameras and locked doors; it's keeping our buildings and grounds clean and neat. It's making sure we have adequate lighting and good visibility. It's making sure that our campus sends the message that bad behavior is not acceptable. The following are some often ignored considerations when applying CPTED concepts in our school communities:

- Keep the grass cut and the bushes trimmed back: a neat area communicates something different from a messy area. Trimmed foliage can reduce hiding spots for criminal activity.

- Ensure dumpsters are in a controlled area.
- Portables and other remote buildings are both secured and visible from the main building; screen under portables to limit access.
- Be aware of your adjoining properties and ensure a clear delineation between them and school grounds.
- Maintain your facilities and grounds to promote a positive and welcoming environment.

These are only a few things to consider when applying the concepts of CPTED. Check out the links below for additional information on how you can apply CPTED in your school. **Contact us for assistance with any other school safety challenge.**

Contact Information

Scan the QR code below or [click this link](#) to connect with a regional school emergency management professional.



Join us on the **2nd Wednesday of every month at 8:30am** to get assistance with this or other emergency preparedness topics: **ZOOM LINK!**

CPTED Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) page on [school violence prevention](#).

CDC document to [assess CPTED](#) on school grounds.

Oregon Emergency Management [local contacts list](#).