

**Community Focus Statement D:** Enhance public safety by improving communication and coordination with law enforcement.

**Action Statement D.4:** Partner with the Sheriff’s Department, Cal Fire, local safety experts, and insurance companies to educate property owners on securing homes and businesses.

**D4**

**Benchmarks:** Achieve a 30 percent decrease in property-related crimes.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated cost:** \$500–\$2,000



*Property owners can connect their outdoor lights to motion detectors. These low-cost devices can help discourage crime by making it harder for lawbreakers to hide. Photo source: Joey Parsons.*

While property owners are often capable of upgrading their homes or businesses to enhance security, finding the best approach to doing so in a cost-effective way can be overwhelming. In Phelan Piñon Hills, residents are concerned that illegal dumping and vacant structures can create community nuisances and sometimes contribute to a sense of unease, which may make people unwilling to walk through some parts of the community at night. A lack of sufficient lighting, security cameras, or other safety features in some areas can contribute to this feeling. The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department can engage with property owners and provide education to improve the safety conditions in Phelan Piñon Hills, in collaboration with local safety experts and insurance companies. This engagement can help individual property owners to address these concerns themselves,

enhancing the security of their home or business while simultaneously increasing the safety of the community. Such improvements can also raise property values and result in lower insurance premiums, resulting in economic benefits to property owners and the community.

A partnership between community members and the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, local safety experts, and insurance companies will provide property owners in Phelan Piñon Hills with a wide range of educational resources and local perspectives about the best ways to secure homes and businesses. Evaluation of existing security of properties in the community can increase the effectiveness of education and outreach to target areas that are currently susceptible to crime. Issues identified by the community as a potential security concern, such as abandoned buildings, could be addressed by workshops on lighting placement or effective signage for security monitoring. The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, in partnership with local safety experts and insurance companies, could provide suggestions about technical resources, estimated costs, and anticipated benefits of safety and security updates.

Coordinating security surveys, organizing educational workshops and demonstrations, and reaching out to residents and business owners who have previously experienced a property crime can build and strengthen community partnerships and increase safety throughout Phelan Piñon Hills. By increasing security, the community

can create a network of safer, stronger neighborhoods, discouraging crime and inspiring other residents and business owners to participate. These types of programs are effective ways for local neighborhood watch efforts or citizen volunteers to assist in improving the safety of the community. Educating property owners and building relationships with local safety resources may also strengthen the community’s ability to respond in an emergency, such as a natural hazard.

Action	Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a Public Safety group or representatives from neighborhood watch groups to serve as lead team	Champion	Month 1	Consumer Reports: 14 ways to make your home more secure <a href="http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2014/06/14-ways-to-make-your-home-more-secure/index.htm">http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2014/06/14-ways-to-make-your-home-more-secure/index.htm</a>
2. Coordinate with Sheriff’s Department, Cal Fire, local safety experts and local insurance agencies	Public safety group	Month 1	National Institute of Justice: Crime and crime prevention – property crime <a href="https://www.crimesolutions.gov/TopicDetails.aspx?ID=21">https://www.crimesolutions.gov/TopicDetails.aspx?ID=21</a>
3. Work with community groups, residents, and business owners to identify security needs in the community.	Neighborhood watch groups, Chamber of Commerce, Public Safety Group	Months 2–4 and ongoing	Community Policing in Smaller Jurisdictions: <a href="https://cops.usdoj.gov/html/cd_room/inaction1/pubs/PromisingStrategiesFieldPolicingSmallerJurisdictions.pdf">https://cops.usdoj.gov/html/cd_room/inaction1/pubs/PromisingStrategiesFieldPolicingSmallerJurisdictions.pdf</a>
4. Host recurring community meetings and workshops about securing homes and businesses. Provide information and resources to residents and property owners. Host meetings at least twice a year, including integrated into meetings of existing groups.	Neighborhood watch groups, Chambers of Commerce	Month 5–ongoing	Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Home Burglary Prevention Tips: <a href="http://shq.lasdnews.net/content/ua/SDM/SDMhomeBurglary%20Prevention%20Tips.pdf">http://shq.lasdnews.net/content/ua/SDM/SDMhomeBurglary%20Prevention%20Tips.pdf</a>
5. Make information available about making properties more secure, including potential financial resources, in a community facility and online, in all languages commonly spoken in the community.	Public Safety Group, neighborhood watch groups, Chamber of Commerce	Month 5–ongoing	Pleasanton Police Department Home Security: <a href="http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobload.aspx?BlobID=24013">http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobload.aspx?BlobID=24013</a>
6. Explore the feasibility of a grant, revolving loan, or other financial incentive mechanism to encourage property owners to secure their buildings.	Public Safety Group	Months 6–8	