

looking for. Crime reports help them see crime patterns in neighborhoods. For example, if they see that a lot of crime is happening on a particular street, they can put more police there to make it safer for everyone—for your grandparents, parents, sisters, brothers, and friends, too.

### How To Report Crime

If you see a crime happening, call the police emergency number (dial 911) or the phone operator (dial 0). This may seem simple to do. Believe it or not, however, many people do not call because they think that someone else has. As a result, nobody calls.

What should you tell the police when you call? You should tell them:

1. where the crime is happening
2. what you remember about the suspect
3. information about any car or vehicle involved
4. if anyone is hurt
5. as much as you can about everything else

Everything you remember can be important. Also, you need to tell the police your name and where you are located because they will need your help as a witness. If you are in a safe place, stay there. If you cannot wait until the police come, give this information to another witness so you can be called. You can also call the police station later. Remember: someday you could be the victim in need of someone to call the police. It could save your life.

### Helping Victims


How can you help the victim? Help the victim by calling the police right away. Wait with the victim until the police arrive. Do not move the victim. Give first aid only if you know what you are doing. There may be other people watching who know first aid. Ask if anyone is a doctor or has medical knowledge.

Ask the victim if there is a friend or relative you can call. Then call that person and tell where the victim is. Tell which hospital the victim is being taken to. Help the victim pick up or collect personal property.

When is it *not* a good idea to be helpful? If you see the crime happening, often you can help. Yet, there are some times when it can be dangerous. It is important to try to tell the difference.

For example, never let a stranger into your apartment. It usually is a trick. The person may say she was robbed or was in an accident and needs to use the phone. If you let the person in, you may very well become a victim. As long as you did not actually see a crime or an accident happen, do not open the door. Instead, tell the person you will call for help. The same kind of situation can happen on the street.

Sometimes, there are clues to danger. For example, Steve, a cab

 **CRITICAL THINKING**  
About half of all felonies and two-thirds of all larcenies are not reported. Why do you think people do not report crimes? Do you think there are any good reasons not to?

**DID YOU KNOW?** Crime Stoppers is an organization in the United States and Canada that promotes crimebusting. It gives rewards to citizens who give information that help solve crimes.

**EYE OPENER** About 40 percent of robberies and 36 percent of assaults on teenagers happen in schools. Burglaries happen in schools five times more often than in places of business. The climate of violence in schools can make it difficult for students to learn.

Why would remembering many details about only one of several suspects be enough to help solve a crime?

**DID YOU KNOW?** In many large cities, citizens can bust crimes by being on the lookout for scams. Scams involve fooling or tricking the public to commit a crime. Often, criminals work their scams, or criminal plans, in pairs or small groups. For example, the scam might be a fake accident to cause the intended victim to act in a careless manner.

**EYE OPENER** There has been a recent pattern of taxi-driver killings in a large city—one almost every seven to ten days. Unfortunately, in special situations when the crime is committed in a physically isolated place like the inside of a taxicab, it becomes very difficult for a crimebuster to become involved.

driver, had to come to a sudden stop. Two men had stepped into the road, blocking him. They came over to the window and asked to use his radio so that they could call for help. They said that a friend was hurt. Steve saw that there was a pay phone on the corner. He also was sure everyone knew that yellow cabs did not have two-way radios. So he stepped on the gas and drove away from danger.

If you do not actually see the crime happen, do not even get close to the person who is supposed to be the victim. Offer to call the police, but do not offer any other help. Keep yourself out of danger.

**How can you remember what you saw?** When you are a crime witness, the police will need to ask you a lot of questions. But many people forget what they saw because they became frightened. Try to remember the following things about the suspect: height, weight, age, coloring (hair, skin, eyes), any special features like scars or tattoos, and the kind of clothing or jewelry worn. If there is more than one suspect, try to remember these things about at least one of them.

If there was a car or other vehicle involved, try to remember the color, make, and model, as well as the license plate. The state and number on the license plate are very important. Even a few numbers can help. If you are the victim, give the police a list of what was taken. It will become part of the police record.

### Getting Involved

**Should You Try to Stop a Crime Yourself?** It is hard to know whether you should try to stop a crime. Every situation is different. You have to judge how dangerous it would be to try. Most people want to help, but are afraid to act alone. They should be. Sometimes, a group can chase and capture a suspect, but only if they are sure that the suspect is not carrying a weapon.

For example, a suspect grabbed a purse from a woman. When she screamed, people on the block blew their whistles. Several people came out of their houses to chase the suspect. The suspect pulled out a knife; people were afraid to grab him. Still, a group chased him down the street while others called the police.

Next, the suspect ran into a building. The crowd stayed outside. The police arrived and the suspect, who was on the roof, was arrested. The police thanked everyone on this block for working together to help stop the crime.

Another example of a person who safely helped a victim is Anita. She was standing in line for the bus. When it arrived, people crowded to get on. Anita saw a man reach into a woman's purse and take out her wallet. "What are you doing?" Anita yelled. The man dropped the wallet and ran. Sometimes, it is enough to yell and frighten the person.

### Citizen's Arrest

**Can you ever arrest a suspect?** The answer is yes. This is called a **citizen's arrest**, or an arrest by someone who is not a police officer.

All private citizens have the right to arrest someone. In this respect, all citizens help to police society.

A citizen's arrest means holding someone until the police arrive. This can also mean taking the person to the police station. Yet, you should be careful not to put yourself in danger.


Most police rarely do unlawful things. But it can happen. If you ever witness the police doing something you think might be illegal, remember their badge numbers and report them. Get names and addresses of any other witness(es), just as you would for any other crime situation or for any other suspect.

**CRITICAL THINKING**  
If you become a crimebuster, what do you have to gain? If you do not get involved when it would be safe to do so, what do you have to lose?

**DID YOU KNOW?** Most people can remember seven facts or bits of information for a short period of time, but no more. Any information in addition to the seven items might not be remembered or might be reported inaccurately.

### Understanding Chapter 12

1. Why is it important to be a crimebuster?
2. If you witness a crime, what information should you try to remember?
3. How can you help a crime victim?

 *Workbook*  
Self-Check p.26  
Reality-Check p.27

1. What do crime reports help police see? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How do police make an area safer? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do many people not call when they see a crime? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why should you give the police any information about any car involved? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why will police need you address and name? \_\_\_\_\_
6. When should you give first aid to a victim? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who should you call and tell which hospital the victim is being taken? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Why should you never let a stranger into your apartment? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What should you do as long as you did not see an accident happen? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Why did Steve not believe the two men who stopped him and asked to use his radio? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How can you keep yourself out of danger? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Why do many people forget what they saw? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What should you try to remember about a suspect? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. What should you try to remember about a car? \_\_\_\_\_
15. When trying to stop a crime, what do you need to judge? \_\_\_\_\_
16. When should a group chase and capture a suspect? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. If a suspect has a knife, how would most people react? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Sometimes it is enough to do what? \_\_\_\_\_
19. What is an arrest by someone other than a police officer called? \_\_\_\_\_
20. What does a citizens arrest mean? \_\_\_\_\_

## Critical Thinking

(pages: 59,60 & 61)

1. Why do you think people are reluctant to report crime?
2. When crime is not reported, what are criminals encouraged to do?
3. Do rewards to citizens who give information help solve crimes? Why?
4. How can a climate of violence in and around school affect a student from having a better life?

5. How could remembering details about one suspect in a group of criminals help solve a crime?

6. Have you ever been the victim of a scam? What is a scam?

7. If you see a crime but don't get involved in helping solve it what might be the result?