

Safety Audit



Keeping Your Neighbourhood Safe

What is a Safety Audit?

The goal of a Safety Audit is to identify your perceptions and concerns and to improve an environment by reducing the opportunity for crime to occur and improving perceptions of your personal safety.

A Safety Audit is:

- A process that allows you and other regular users of an area to identify places that make you feel unsafe;
- A highly flexible process that can be easily adapted to meet the needs of the community;
- A way to address different issues that affect how safe you may feel in an area, such as: physical features (e.g. lighting, signs, and accessibility), attitudes and behaviour, and official and/or unofficial practices and policies;
- A tool that is based on the idea that you are the expert on your own sense of safety and experiences of being safe or unsafe in a space.

You, as an area resident or user, are considered a “local expert” because you are the most familiar with the area and what happens on a day-to-day basis. You will become directly involved in making your community safer through this process.

Residents, users, local businesses, and local government work together to find solutions to safety problems in the community using the audit results as one tool, or input, in the overall Risk Assessment of the area.

The principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) focus on the relationship between the built environment and the social behaviour that occurs in that built environment. CPTED is an inclusive, collaborative, and interdisciplinary approach to reducing opportunities for crime, improving perceptions of safety, and strengthening community bonds. CPTED principles, now adopted by the City of Saskatoon, stem from the observed phenomenon that certain “cues” in the physical environment can prompt undesirable or crime-related behaviours, as well as perceptions of being safe or unsafe in users of that environment.

Safety Audits, perception and intercept surveys (of actual users), and site inspections all add to the understanding of what environmental cues an area exhibits and how these affect your “feelings” of safety. Without this larger picture, the appropriate solutions to a problem may not all be identified.

In Saskatoon, Safety Audits based on CPTED principles have now been applied in a number of settings including parks, streets, and buildings.

Safety Audit

Neighbourhood _____

Specific Location (e.g. park, intersection, hundred block, etc.) _____

Date _____ Day _____ Time _____

Weather Conditions (e.g. sunny, rainy, cloudy, full moon, etc.): _____
 _____ Temperature: _____

Age: (Please check the age range that applies to you)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 50-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> 70-74 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35-39 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55-59 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75-79 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 40-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 60-64 | <input type="checkbox"/> 80+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25-29 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45-49 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65-69 | |

Sex: Male Female

Affiliation (e.g. Community Association, merchant, resident, etc.): _____

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

- Your gut reactions: _____

- Which five words best describe the area? _____

LIGHTING

- Impression of lighting: very poor poor good
 satisfactory very good
 too bright too dark
- Is the lighting even? yes no
 Why? _____

5. How many lights are out? _____
6. What proportion of lights are out? (e.g. Maybe only two bulbs on the block you are on are burned out, but if there are only three bulbs to start with, then a more powerful way to say this is that two-thirds of the lights are out) _____
7. Can you identify a face 25 paces away? (walk 25 paces from the group to check) yes no
8. Do you know where/whom to call if lights are out, broken, not yet turned on, etc? yes no
9. Is the lighting obscured by trees or bushes? yes no
10. How well does the lighting illuminate the following:

	very poor			very well		N/A
sidewalks	1	2	3	4	5	
bus stops	1	2	3	4	5	
seating	1	2	3	4	5	
signs	1	2	3	4	5	
entrances	1	2	3	4	5	
exits	1	2	3	4	5	
alleys	1	2	3	4	5	
walkways	1	2	3	4	5	
phone booths	1	2	3	4	5	
(other) _____	1	2	3	4	5	
_____	1	2	3	4	5	

If poor or very poor, please describe why: _____

Additional comments: _____

SIGNAGE

- 11. Are there location or street signs nearby that can help identify where you are? yes no
- 12. Are there signs that show you where to get emergency assistance if needed? yes no
- 13. Are there signs that direct you to wheelchair access? yes no
- 14. Do exit doors identify where they exit to? yes no
- 15. Is there information posted describing the hours the building or site is legitimately open? yes no
- 16. Impression of overall signage:
 very poor poor satisfactory good very good
- 17. What signs should be added and where? (if necessary) _____

SIGHTLINES

- 18. Can you clearly see what is up ahead? yes no
- 19. If no, why not? bushes fences wall(s) hill other _____
- 20. Are there places where someone could be hiding? yes no
- 21. If yes, where? _____

- 22. What would make it easier to see?
 angled corners security mirrors trimmed bushes
 snow cleared vehicles moved transparent building materials
Other comments: _____

ISOLATION - EYE DISTANCE

23. At the time of your audit, does the area feel isolated? yes no

24. How many people are likely to be around?

In the early morning: none a few several many

During the day: none a few several many

In the evening: none a few several many

Late at night (after 10 pm): none a few several many

25. Is it easy to predict when people will be around? yes no

26. Is there a monitor or surveillance system? yes no not sure

Other comments: _____

ISOLATION - EAR DISTANCE

27. How far away is the nearest person to hear a call for help?

_____ don't know

28. How far away is the nearest emergency service such as an alarm, security personnel, or crisis telephone? _____ don't know

29. Can you see a telephone or a sign directing you to emergency assistance? yes no

30. Is the area patrolled? yes no don't know

31. If yes, how frequently?

hourly once per afternoon/evening don't know

Other comments: _____

MOVEMENT PREDICTORS (a predictable or unchangeable route or path)

32. How easy is it to predict a person's movements (e.g. their route)?

very easy somewhat obvious no way of knowing

33. Is there an alternative well-lit and frequently traveled route or path available? yes no

34. Can you tell what is at the other end of the path, tunnel, or walkway?
 yes no
35. Are there corners, alcoves, or bushes where someone could hide and wait for you? yes no
36. Other comments: _____

POSSIBLE ENTRAPMENT SITES

37. Are there small, confined areas where you would be hidden from view?
 between garbage bins unlocked equipment or utility shed
 alley or laneway recessed doorway construction site
 other: _____

ESCAPE ROUTES

38. How easy would it be for an offender to disappear?
 very easy quite easy not very easy
39. Is there more than one exit from the lane/street/walkway?
 yes no don't know
40. If yes, please describe: _____

NEARBY LAND USES

41. What is the surrounding or nearby land used for (check all that apply)?
 stores factories busy traffic riverbank offices
 residential houses & streets heavily treed/wooded areas
 parking lots restaurants park space don't know
 other: _____

42. Can you identify who owns or maintains nearby land? yes no
43. Impressions of nearby land use:
 very poor poor satisfactory good very good

MAINTENANCE

44. Impressions of maintenance:

very poor poor satisfactory good very good

45. Is there litter lying around? yes no

46. Do you know to whom maintenance concerns should be reported?

yes no

47. From your experience, how long do repairs generally take?

1 day within 1 week 1 - 3 weeks

more than 3 weeks don't know

FACTORS THAT MAKE THE PLACE MORE HUMAN

48. Does the place feel cared for? yes no

49. Does the place feel abandoned? yes no

50. Is there graffiti vandalism on the walls? yes no

51. In your opinion are there racist or sexist slogans/signs/images on the walls? yes no

52. Are there signs of vandalism? yes no

53. Would other materials, tones, textures, or colors improve your sense of safety? yes no

54. Other comments: _____

OVERALL DESIGN

55. Impressions of overall design:

very poor poor satisfactory good very good

56. If you weren't familiar with the place, would it be easy to find your way around? yes no

57. Does the place "make sense"? yes no

58. Is the place too spread out? yes no

59. Are there a confusing number of levels? yes no

60. Other comments: _____

IMPROVEMENTS

61. What improvements would you like to see? _____

62. Do you have any specific recommendations? _____

Thank you for participating!

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency
911

Saskatoon Police Services
975-8300

Victim Services
975-8400

Community Associations
975-3378

Saskatoon Light & Power
975-2414

SaskPower Customer Service
(to report burnt out street lights)
1-888-757-6937

Neighbourhood Safety Crime Prevention
Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
975-3340

For more information about how to keep your
home, family and community safe, contact:

Neighbourhood Safety - Crime Prevention
Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
City of Saskatoon, Planning & Development Branch
222 - 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 0J5
(306) 975-3340



www.saskatoon.ca