

# **Policing: A BC Practitioners' Toolkit**

## ***Lesson 5: Situational Crime Prevention I***



# Overview of Lesson 5

## Situational Crime Prevention

- Theoretical basis and definition
- Concept: Crime Triangle
- Concept: Broken Windows Theory

# Situational Crime Prevention

A crime prevention strategy that:

- manages, designs and manipulates the environment in a manner that seeks to
- increase the risk...while
- lowering the reward for committing the crime.

(Clark, 1993; Sampson, 2003; Scott, 2001)

**Will the benefits of committing a crime  
outweigh the risks?**

# Theoretical Basis

## **Crime Routine Activity Theory**

Crime requires the intersection of time and space, with respect to a potential offender, suitable target and the lack of a deterrent to prevent the crime.

## **Rational Choice Theory**

Offenders make conscious decisions to commit crime.

## **Crime Pattern Theory**

Criminal behavioural patterns form in familiar surroundings based on where people go, how they decide to get there, and whom they meet.

# Crime Triangle



*If you can control one of these elements you can reduce or eliminate the crime*

Adopts the principles from Routine Activity Theory:

**Desire** – cognitive desire to commit crime

**Ability** – physical ability to commit crime

**Opportunity** – the situation that enables crime to occur

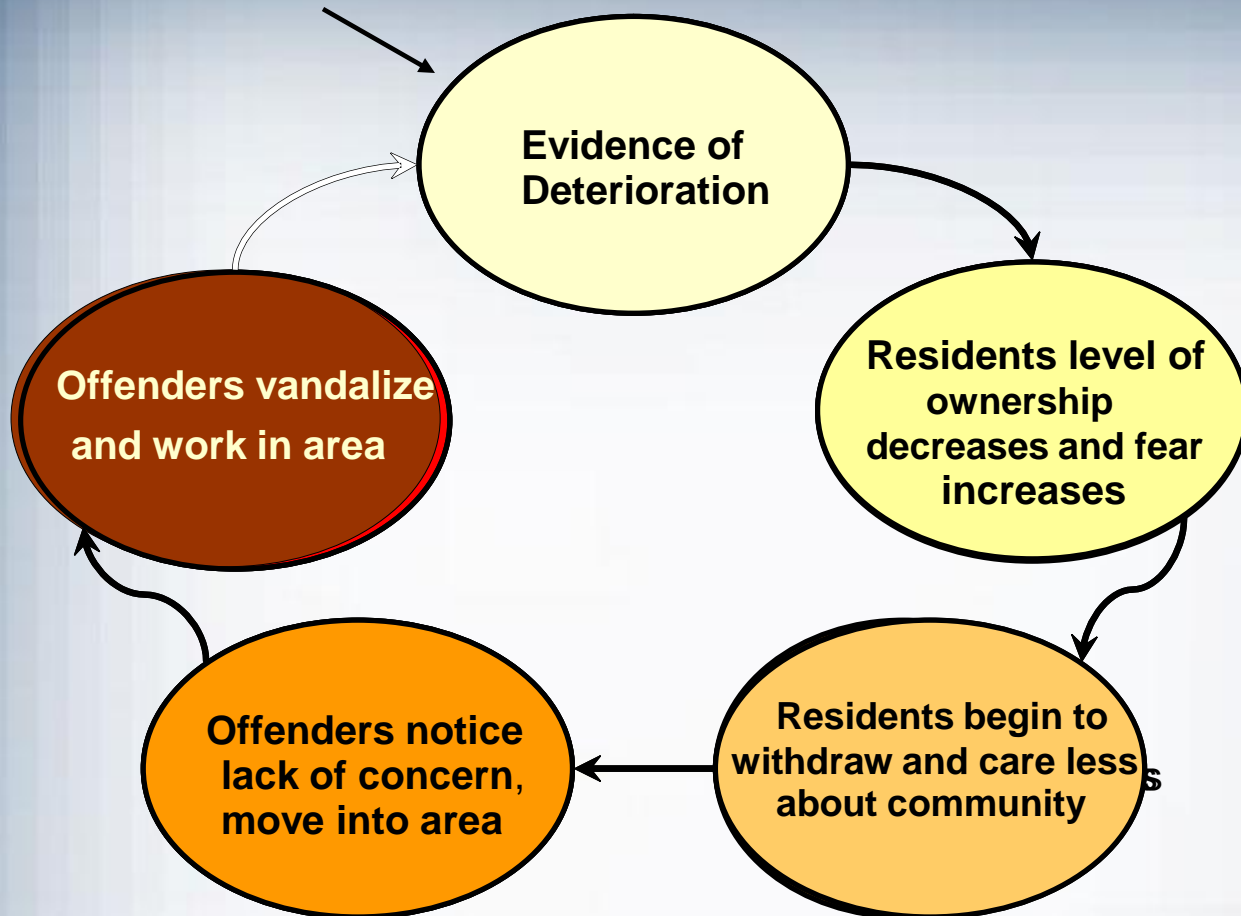
# Broken Windows Theory



Messy or broken-down surroundings invite social disorder and an associated level of criminal activity.

*(Wilson & Kelling, 1982)*

# Broken Windows Escalation Model



# Situation I

How does this public walkway display social disorder?

Criminal opportunity?



# Situation II

What message does this yard convey?

Discuss local examples of disorder.



# Next Lesson

## Lesson 6: Situational Crime Prevention II

- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
- Practical applications