

Alachua County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office's Crime Prevention Unit consists of two Crime Prevention Deputies and a Crime Prevention Specialist. The unit is part of the COPS TEAM which reports to the Patrol Division and works closely with many other units and Law Enforcement agencies in the area. The unit is involved with many groups within the county and prides itself on adapting crime prevention principles to specific community needs.

Programs offered by our Crime Prevention Unit:

- Business Watch
- Businesses On the Look Out (BOLO)
- Business Security Surveys
- Crime prevention Through Environmental Design Surveys (CPTED)
- Employee Crime Prevention Training
- Neighborhood Crime Watch
- Residential Security Surveys
- Rape Aggression Defense (RAD)
- Citizen Crime Prevention Training
- Operation ID

Business Crime Prevention

Training Topics:

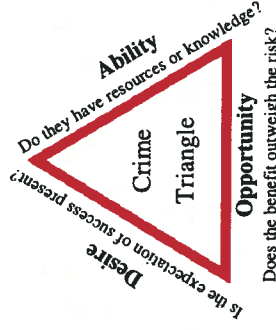
- Workplace violence
- Identity theft
- Avoiding frauds and scams
- Internet safety - adults and children
- Recognizing and reporting crime
- Burglary prevention
- Robbery prevention
- CPTED

And many more!

Please call (352) 374-1800 if you are interested in these services or to schedule a training.

Important Phone Numbers

- Law enforcement and medical emergencies: 9-1-1
- Law enforcement non-emergency service: 352-955-1818
- Alachua County Sheriff's Office: 352-367-4000
- ACSO Crime Prevention Unit: 352-374-1800
- Crime Stoppers & Gun Bounty (24 hours): 352- 372-7867
- Narcotics tip line: 352-374-1849
- Department of the Jail inmate lookup: 352-491-4444



As it is difficult for us to affect desire and ability, the key to crime prevention is reducing the opportunity for committing the crime.

Alachua County Sheriff's Office

2621 SE Hawthorne Road

Gainesville, FL 32641

352-367-4000

www.alachuasheriff.org

(BOLO) Businesses On the Look Out



The Alachua County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit's

Mission Statement is:

To improve the quality of life of our citizens through proactive community empowerment and education of crime prevention practices.



Sheriff Sadie Darnell

For More Information Contact our Crime Prevention Unit at 352-374-1800.

What is BOLO?

Businesses On the Look Out (BOLO) is a program offered by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office to businesses that travel throughout the community on a daily basis. These businesses are chosen because of their ability to observe streets, neighborhoods, and other businesses, much like a patrol deputy does. The BOLO program is an extension of the eyes and ears of law enforcement in the community. The BOLO program offers specialized training to its participants. These trainings provide participants with information on types of crimes, crime trends, and how to recognize and report crime.

What types of businesses can participate?

The BOLO program is looking for businesses that provide services throughout the community on a daily basis by way of a vehicle. This can include delivery and pick-up services, such as waste collectors mail carriers. It can also include utility companies, realtors, maintenance services, etc.



Business Watch

For businesses that do not have traveling employees, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office also provides Business Watch, a program much like a neighborhood crime watch except with businesses. Business crime watch groups consist of businesses of similar nature, such as banks, gas stations, or hotel/motels, or it could include businesses in the same area, such as in a strip mall or shopping center. Members can be owners, operators, or employees. Business crime watch groups are trained by law enforcement to recognize and report suspicious people, vehicles, and incidents. Members also share crime prevention tips and tricks with each other specific to their customers and venue. This partnership between businesses and law enforcement promotes a collaborative approach to addressing crime in our area.

Benefits of BOLO and Business Watch:

- Promotes communication and understanding between law enforcement and the business community.
- Encourages cooperation between neighboring businesses and personnel.
- Teaches businesses to deter crime on their own properties and to watch over neighboring businesses and report any suspicious activity to law enforcement.
- Develops a business contact tree system for quick dissemination of information regarding criminal activity in the area. This system can be utilized through phone, email, or even social networking sites.
- Encourages the development of signals to activate in adjacent businesses when someone needs help.

Becoming a Business on the Look Out

If you are interested in becoming a Business On the Look Out (BOLO) call us at (352) 374-1800 and share with us the type of business you have and then we can discuss how the BOLO program might work for you.

Business Watch:

If you would like to join or form a business watch group, please follow these steps:

1. Contact the businesses you would like to include in your group to discuss their interest in joining.
2. Identify the people you would like to include (owners, operators, employees, etc.) and select three dates and times that would be best for everyone's availability.
3. Contact our Crime Prevention Unit at (352) 374-1800 to discuss these dates and times and arrange for a Crime Prevention Deputy to attend your meeting to discuss business watch and crime prevention practices.
4. A few days before the meeting, contact the members to remind them of the location, date, and time of the meeting.
5. Have at least 3 meetings with at least 50% of your group present in a 12 month period to form your official business watch group.

Crime Prevention Tip

Vehicles used for various types of jobs are often targets for burglary and vandalism. To help deter these types of crime, always lock the vehicle and park it in an area where there is adequate lighting and where the vehicle can be seen by the general public.