

## **news & notes**

### **CRIME PREVENTION CASE**

On January 18, 2015, Peter Jonsson and Carl-Frederik Arndt, graduate students at Stanford University, were riding their bikes across campus at about 1:00 a.m. As they rode through an alley, they saw something disturbing: a man on top of a woman next to a Dumpster. The woman was unconscious. The two students yelled at the man who tried to run away. One of the students stopped him while the other went to check on the woman.

The man who tried to run away was Brock Turner, and, in March 2016, he was convicted of sexually assaulting the woman, who has remained anonymous. In a letter to the court, Turner's victim praised Jonsson and Arndt, thanking them for stepping in even though they could have biked on past. "I sleep with two bicycles that I drew taped above my bed to remind myself there are heroes in this story. That we are looking out for one another," she wrote.

When it comes to some forms of violence—in particular, sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence—bystanders can make a difference. It's as true in workplaces as it is on college campuses.



"He rotates his head 180 degrees to stare at me. Of course it makes me uncomfortable."



**October 2016**

## **National Crime Prevention Month** *Know what you can do*

October is National Crime Prevention Month ( [www.ncpc.org/programs/crime-prevention-month](http://www.ncpc.org/programs/crime-prevention-month)), which makes it a good time to go over recommendations from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center ( [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)) on how you can recognize when and how to intervene.

### **When to intervene**

Many people think of "intervening" as something they should only consider in extreme cases (for example, if they directly observe a child being molested or a person being raped). But by that point, many violent individuals will have isolated their victims and removed them from view; the opportunity to prevent violence has already passed.

Instead, you can learn how to watch for precursors to sexual violence—specifically, for behaviors that are inappropriate, coercive, or harassing. To help you identify situations that could lead to sexual violence, get a clear understanding of your organization's policy defining acceptable and not acceptable behavior.

### **How to intervene**

Sometimes you want to intervene but don't know exactly what to do or how best to help. You may fear that if you step into a situation, you will make things worse, not better.

One thing a bystander can do is simply offer the parties a chance to ask for help: "Do you need help? Can I help here?" If the potential victim feels threatened, you can encourage him or her to seek help anonymously, through the employee assistance program or the employer's equal employment opportunity officer.

If a situation is not immediately dangerous (for example, if you observe behavior that violates your employer's sexual harassment and violence prevention policy, but no one seems to be in immediate danger of assault), you should report the troubling behavior or situation that you saw. In fact, some employers make such reporting mandatory, as it is for many people who come into regular contact with children, like social workers and doctors.

Finally, know to whom you should report incidents, and rest assured that all such reports will be thoroughly investigated and appropriately handled. The ultimate goal is for people to look out for each other and protect each other from harm.

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### **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

This year's "Fire Prevention Week" runs from **October 9 to 15** ([www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week](http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week)) and is sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

This year's campaign is **Don't Wait—Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years.** This theme represents the final year of NFPA's 3-year effort to educate the public about smoke alarm safety.

NFPA's survey data shows that the public has many misconceptions about smoke alarms. For example, only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are or how often they need to be replaced.

Because of these and related findings, the NFPA is focusing on these key messages:

- Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.
- Make sure you know how old the smoke alarms are in your home.
- To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; replace the alarm 10 years from that date.



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## **Crime prevention quiz**

### *Test what you know*

Choose the correct response for the following statements.

1. Never intervene if you witness suspicious behavior. **True False**
2. Simply asking "Do you need help?" can stop a crime from happening. **True False**
3. If a situation is not immediately dangerous, report the troubling behavior or situation that you observed. **True False**
4. Professionals who regularly encounter children in their work have a lesser responsibility for reporting incidents than those in other professions. **True False**
5. It's a good idea to know to whom in your workplace you should report suspicious or threatening behavior. **True False**

### **ANSWERS**

1. False. Bystanders can make a difference in stopping or lessening the severity of a crime.
2. True.
3. True.
4. False. Reporting incidents is mandatory for many people—such as social workers and doctors—who come into regular contact with children.
5. True.

## **Flame out**

### *Know how to fight fire safely*

If trained and designated to do so by your employer, you can fight a small, contained fire in its beginning stage if you ensure that:

- **Others are safe.** Activate the alarm so everyone else can get out safely.
- **The smoke isn't excessive.** If it's difficult to see the fire because of smoke or if you could be overcome by smoke, get out.
- **You have a way out.** Don't put the fire between you and your exit.
- **You know when to leave.** If you empty your extinguisher and the fire's not out, leave. If the fire spreads, leave. If the smoke starts making it hard for you to stay, leave.

Remember the acronym **PASS** when using a fire extinguisher:

- **Pull** the pin. This allows you to squeeze the trigger and release the extinguisher's contents.
- **Aim** the nozzle at the base of the fire. You need to separate the fuel source from the oxygen and flame, and the base of the fire is your best chance to do that.
- **Squeeze** the trigger.
- **Sweep** the nozzle back and forth across the base of the fire until the fire is out. Keep applying suppressant until the extinguisher is empty.

Once you've extinguished the fire, watch the area to ensure that it doesn't reignite. Even if you've put out the fire, it's wise to have the fire department inspect the area to ensure the hazard is completely controlled.