

Rural Safety Vision

To create a **safe and secure** rural environment where its inhabitants can prosper and live without fear

Rural Safety Strategy

Rural Safety is part and parcel of an integrated and holistic day to day Crime Prevention approach which is based on the principles of Sector Policing.

The aim of the strategy is to address the needs of the total rural community through the promotion of the effective and dedicated participation and involvement of all role players in an integrated, joint and coordinated manner.

The strategy is based on four pillars, namely:-

Pillar 1: Enhanced Service Delivery

Pillar 2: Integrated approach

Pillar 3: Community Awareness

Pillar 4: Rural Development

Our Commitment

The South African Police Service is committed in ensuring the safety of the rural community.

We trust that these guidelines will be of assistance to you as community members and will contribute to your personal safety and the creation of a safe and secure environment where you can life in without fear.

We have a joint responsibility - get involved in the activities within your policing area it can be to your own advantage. Your contributions within Sector Policing, the

functioning of the Community Police Forum or even to join the South African Reserve Police Service as a volunteer, is much needed in order to identify the problems that are experienced at community level.

One needs to be pro active and prepared to deal with any eventuality that might endanger you or the lives of your loved ones. An alert community poses a much more insuperable

deterrent to any criminal.

It is your responsibility as members of the community to implement preventative measures to ensure that you do not become victims of crime. This includes hardening measures, such as security, dogs, etc and awareness of how one should react in the event of an attack.

Together we can make the difference for all the inhabitants of South Africa, as well as create a country that is internationally recognized as a safe traveling destination.

Safety starts with you as an individual. Ensure that all the basic safety measures are in place in your immediate environment.

You could consider to:

- Implement physical protection measures
- Adopt sound security habits



Why Rural Safety?

- The agriculture sector is one of the economic pillars in South Africa
- In order to ensure the sustainable development of the rural sector, Rural Safety Plans is implemented at station level to ensure safety in the rural areas

Physical Protection Measures

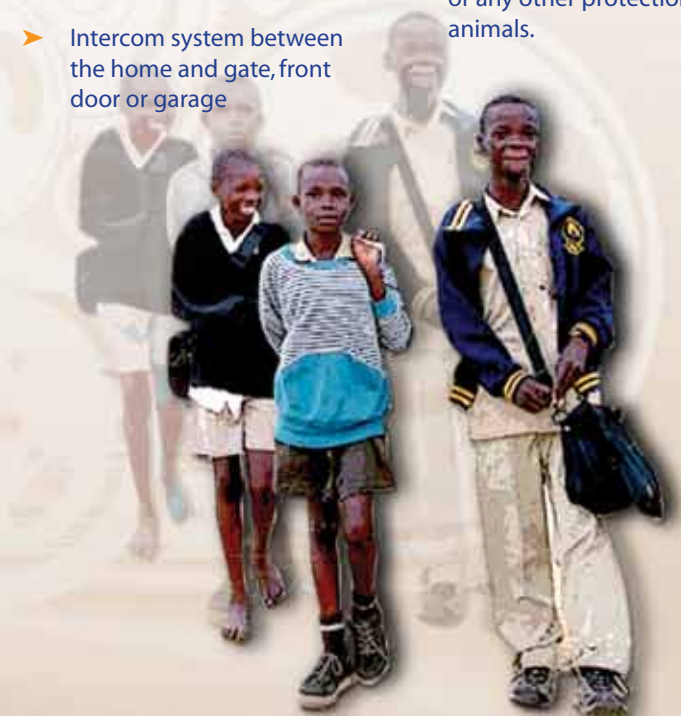
- A high fence around the house with lockable gates, is much safer than a high wall due to the advantage of the improved visibility it provides to your neighbours or when approaching your house.
- Razor wire, barbed wire, empty tins or bells can be attached to the fence to increase the early-warning capability.
- Ensure that your gates and doors are locked at all times and that the keys cannot easily be reached or are lying around uncontrolled.

You could also consider the following devices to prevent easy access to your premises:

- Window bars
- Security doors
- Double fencing
- Security gates
- Razor wire

- Bars behind doors
- Additional locking devices on doors
- Strengthening of doors
- Peepholes in the doors
- Safety chains to doors
- Intercom system between the home and gate, front door or garage

- Alarm Systems, either mechanical and/or electrical or improvised systems, such as threaded tins, gravel on approaches, pathways or around the homed, as well as dogs or any other protection animals.



Security Habits

Be alert!

- Ensure that all doors (including security and garage doors), are locked at all times, and that windows are closed when you are inside or not at home.
- Before unlocking your car, or front door ensure that you have the correct key handy. Be alert and aware of your surroundings and any potential dangerous circumstances.
- Do not allow anybody on your premises without first properly identifying him or her.
- When leaving your residence inform your family or neighbours of your intended destination, time you expect to return and the route you will be driving, especially if you reside in a rural area.
- Ensure that tools such as axes, spades, picks, tommy bars, ladders, etc that can be used in an attack are locked away when not in use.



- Take the necessary precautions against theft. Ensure that garage doors, tool sheds and store rooms are closed and locked when you are not in the vicinity.
- Vary your daily routine.
- When unsure about the security status of your home after returning from work or a visit, eg dogs do not come to the gate, do not enter. Contact your neighbour to assist you in securing your home. This will prevent ambushes.
- Do not follow up blindly on suspicious noises at night without prior consultation with a neighbour or security provider for possible back-up.
- Identify relatively safe places of refuge, ie: bathroom, toilet or storeroom. The fewer windows and doors the better.
- Establish and maintain good relationships between employees and employers, as well as your neighbours.
- Ensure that you have the contact particulars of your neighbours available during an emergency.
- Keep records and personal details of all employees. Don't employ any undocumented migrants.
- After being away from home, try to arrive back during the daylight hours.
- Familiarize yourself with the protocol for farm visits by police or neighbours.
- Involve employees as part of the family/team on an equal footing in maintaining security.
- Share suspicious behaviour and information with the South African Police Service.
- Regularly clear the areas of bushes and other hiding places around your premises.
- Effective communication is a crucial part of rural safety. It is therefore imperative that every farm must be in communication with other farms in the area as well as the South African Police Service.
- Consider the establishment of a neighbourhood watch system.
- Conduct regular safety assessments on your property to detect weak links and security threats.
- Encourage security consciousness and the immediate reporting of suspicious activities to your local police station.
- Ensure that you know the telephone number of your local police station and sector commander.
- Don't walk around alone in remote or quiet areas.

Measures to be Considered During an Emergency

- Think - control is your first line of defence
- Remain calm do not panic
- Do not resist your life is of more importance than earthly possessions
- Only defend yourself if your life, or the lives of your loved ones, are in direct danger
- Concentrate on identification marks. Take note of the attacker's age, height, hair color, eyes, scars and other obvious physical features, such as clothes, speech, language, and patterns of behaviour.
- Leave as much physical evidence around the scene of attack, such as fingerprints/ footprints, possessions or any other form of identification.
- Contact your local police as soon as possible.
- Ensure that you know the emergency number of the South African Police -10111

Rural Safety and Your Local Police Station

Get involved in the drafting of the station rural safety plan

Ensure that you are informed of the station rural safety plan and what role you could play

Give your full support to the station commissioner and members at the police station

Know and trust your local police

