

JPD Crime Free Multi-Housing Program 06/15/12

The Joplin Police Department RAPID (Residents and Police Interacting Directly) Team began a "Crime Free Multi-Housing Program" in November 2011, in which members of the RAPID Team communicate directly with apartment managers who are participating in the program. The goal of the program is to eradicate crime from apartment complexes by education and sharing of information.

The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program consists of three phases. The first phase is an educational class hosted by the Joplin Police Department. An attorney speaks to the class about screening, manager's rights, and legal issues. The officers introduce "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)." CPTED is a crime prevention technique that uses the natural environment to reduce opportunities for crime. The second phase is an on-site review of the apartment complexes to ensure they meet 8 minimum required guidelines. The third phase is an annual safety social where the apartment complex invites the tenants to a gathering to celebrate the completion of the Crime Free program.

As an example of the effectiveness of the program from January to May of 2011 Northpark Apartments had 106 calls for service. Northpark Apartments joined the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program in November of 2011. From January to May of 2012 Northpark Apartments had 80 calls for service, a 25% reduction in call volume, compared to January-May 2011.

Any rental property owners interested in the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program should contact the RAPID Team at the Joplin Police Department South Station at (417) 627-8880.

For further information contact Lt. Matt Stewart or Cpl. Brian Henderson at 417-627-8880.