

Beacon



Beacon  
*Neighborhood Watch of the Future*

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# Neighborhood Watch of the Future

Beacon is a community-based reporting system designed to detect and prevent school shootings and other violent incidents.

Like Neighborhood Watch programs or the national See Something, Say Something™ campaign, its focus is on community awareness and involvement.



Beacon is a combination smartphone application and website portal for easy-to-learn reporting and communication between trusted community members (known as Community Safety Partners, or CSPs) and law enforcement.

Beacon is customizable to each community's needs and meets or exceeds advanced standards for data security and information integrity.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERS USE THE Beacon APPLICATION

loaded to an Android phone to communicate observations or suspicious activity in real time to a secure web-based portal, where they are geo-located, visualized, and contextualized with historical data. When an emergency situation is unfolding, Beacon reports immediately provide law enforcement with critical awareness from trusted observers. CSPs are given a 'Rank,' or level of confidence, depending on training received. This allows law enforcement to collaborate reports and make action decisions based on the 'weight' of combined reports.

## Beacon MONITORS / LAW ENFORCEMENT



- A data repository for trusted community reports to be aggregated, reviewed, combined with other information, and understood during 'pre-event' non-critical conditions.
- Decision making power to initiate a Lockdown or Red Alert based on trusted community reporting. Only authorized portal users can initiate a lockdown.

## TRAINED PORTAL MONITORS CAN ALSO:

- View the location and status of each Community Safety Partner (CSP).
- Monitor a live feed of all incoming data, messages, reports, and status changes of CSPs.
- Send messages to CSPs individually, to groups by "Rank," or to all CSPs; an essential communications.
- View geolocated, real-time reports that include Threat Details, Medical Needs, and Shelter in Place information.

# Technology Assisted Safety for Schools and Communities

## SAFER SCHOOLS

A common feeling after a school shooting is often articulated as “I never thought it would happen here.” An easy-to-use smart phone application in the hands of teachers can mean life or death differences when the unthinkable happens.

- Beacon equips teachers with a rapid, direct line to law enforcement in the event of an active shooter situation in an easy-to-use smartphone application.
- Beacon simultaneously alerts school administration and all teachers in the same school, so they can act fast, lock down classrooms, and protect students.
- After a Red Alert is triggered:



o teachers can report on their location and number of students sheltered in place, medical needs, and additional details as the situation unfolds; and  
o law enforcement can send messages through the application to keep teachers informed of their actions and locations.

• Beacon also features ‘Core Reporting’ so that teachers can securely and safely use their years of experience to report on behavioral concerns. This information stays within the school system with the goal of detecting patterns and reaching at-risk students before an event ever happens.

Beacon recognizes the close interactions that teachers have with students and uses technology to quickly provide trusted information to law enforcement and school administration in a secure manner that protects privacy and protects lives.

## SAFER COMMUNITIES

The same technology that adds safety to schools can be applied to the broader community. Local citizens, carefully selected from within the community, receive training to become Community Safety Partners. These trained volunteers act as the eyes and ears of the community:

- CSPs can use the Beacon application to report on suspicious activities, motivated by a sincere interest in their community, combined with training and a deep knowledge of their home towns.
- Reports can be ‘weighted’ based on many factors such as training received by originating CSPs, allowing law enforcement to filter community reports and prioritize information based on the ‘weight’ of the report.
- CSP reports are received on a secure, centralized portal, where the information can be visualized, geolocated, and analyzed.
- Dangerous situations do not always unfold on a school campus. Adding Beacon and a core group of CSPs will enhance safety in communities in many possible situations:

- Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Active Shooter situations not on school campuses
- Severe Weather Emergencies
- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief / SAR

Beacon is safe, secure, and highly customizable to accommodate the goals of your community. The input of Community Safety Partners enhances community safety by providing law enforcement and decision makers with insight from a source often untapped. These CSPs care about the safety of their neighbors and their communities. Simply stated, Beacon takes the concept of a “tip line” into the smartphone age, providing another tool for community safety.

## The Beacon Difference: Community Safety Partner

Community Safety Partners are the eyes and ears of the community and a key advantage of the Beacon system. Chosen by their communities, CSPs have extensive local and place-based knowledge; when specific training is added, CSP observations are reliably accurate, relevant, and verifiable. Each community selects its own CSPs; CSP candidates can be public safety personnel, first responders, school district employees, local business owners, or other active community members.

Ultimately, the role of a Community Safety Partner is to provide the earliest possible insight into safety concerns. When Beacon reports are received by public safety personnel, they are taken seriously because the CSP is a known and trusted member of the community. While anonymous public reporting has a place in community safety programs, anonymous online communications can inadvertently cause “noise,” obscuring accurate understanding of rapidly changing situations. Beacon reports are trusted based on CSP training, existing relationships with schools and community, and prior vetting by public safety officers.



