



**Safe Community of the
District 3**



Name of the Community: **District 3 of Tehran City**

Country: **Iran**

Number of inhabitants: **290,726**

Program started year: 2008

International Safe Communities Network Membership: **Designation year: 2011**
by European Certifying Centre.

Info address for the Program: www.tehransafe3.com

Full application available: <http://www.phs.ki.se/csp/pdf/applicationreports/district3.pdf>

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The program covers the following safety promotion activities for various groups:

Children 0-14 years

Traffic accidents, falls and burn injuries are the main incidents in this age group. Therefore, the District's programs for this age group are focused on the mentioned categories. It should be noted that violence prevention against child abuse were taught to this age group. As incidents take place at home, in schools and in transit between these two locations, the initiatives evolved around the following agenda which was developed in regular meetings of the working committees including representatives from the Ministry of Education, Traffic Police, School Deans as well as community-based organizations:

- Identification of hazardous locations around schools;
- Marking the crossings for school pupils and installation of lights around these crossings;
- Presence of traffic police at these crossings at times when students leave their schools;
- Identification of and attention to specific environments (such as under bridges and flyovers, construction sites) which may be abused against school children;
- Presence of police around schools (especially girl schools) at critical times;
- Education of key stakeholders through banners, posters and other media close to schools;
- Publication of brochures containing educational material for students, especially about how to respond to crises such as natural disasters, fire etc.);
- Drafting of specific methodologies for the registration of incidents and accidents in educational facilities;
- Equipment of educational facilities with fire fighting tools and capsules;
- Creation of a specialized website for the issue of safety in educational facilities;
- Holding of a seminar on "Student Safety in Urban Traffic" with the objective of promotion of safety and reduction of accidents;
- Student visits to emergency services (fire brigades, medical services etc.);
- First Aid training workshops for students;
- Improving the safety of playgrounds in parks and public places;
- Training sessions for parents to educate them on safety issues in home environment;
- Training sessions for parents to educate them on safety issues in the transition from home to school and vice versa;
- Drafting a plan to "Improve Safety in Student Excursions" which will be implemented soon;
- Creation of a database on the issues of street children;
- Establishment of stations to carry out vision tests for children;

Youth 15-24 years

This group is mainly affected through traffic accidents as well as social vulnerabilities. It has been established that those citizens who end up as beggars on the District's streets are commuters and do not reside in the District.

Initiatives for this age group include:

- Cooperation with NGOs to address key issues;
- Promotion of safety concepts based on the indicators of Safe Community;
- Study on the actual incidents derived from social vulnerabilities;
- Categorization and prioritization of incident types;
- Processing of issues relating to drug addiction;
- Investment in new cultural and sports facilities in order to fill the leisure time of citizens in this age group in order to prevent their attraction to unsafe activities;
- Awareness campaign on risky behaviors and their consequences including education on AIDS and other issues;
- Drafting and print of educational materials on unsafe relations for this age group;
- Training sessions for parents to educate them on risks for this age group and how to prevent unsafe behaviors and violence;
- Transformation of the areas where criminals used to assemble to sports, educational and cultural centers with the help of this age group's representatives in the various committees;
- Legal imposition on motor cyclists to wear helmets;

Adults 25-64 years

The majority of the injuries and deaths in traffic accidents belong to this age group. As some of the safety risks can be distinguished based on gender, some of the initiatives for this age group are gender-based:

- Ongoing collaboration between the Municipality and institutions such as Emergency Services, Fire Brigades and Traffic Police in order to identify and address issues relating to critical traffic areas with a high number of accidents, critical points with regard to social vulnerabilities;
- Training workshops for housewives with the objective to generate awareness on safety risks at home and how to prevent injuries;
- Drafting and production of educational material for housewives on safety at home;
- Awareness campaign on the risk of "silent death" through suffocation;
- Cooperation with NGOs in addressing social vulnerabilities;
- Organization of seminars in various sub-districts on identifying best practices in safety in the District.

Elderly +65 years

The majority of injuries and deaths in this age group are caused by traffic accidents and falls. Related initiatives include:

- Holding of brainstorming sessions with experts in this field in order to identify key safety issues for this age group;
- Equipment of pedestrian flyovers with escalators to facilitate the crossing of streets by this age group;
- Study on key safety risks for this age group at home and at work;
- Establishment of appropriate areas for sport and activities of this group in parks and public places.

At the following environments

Home

Most important activities so far:

- Implementation of plans to secure the safety of pedestrians around construction sites;
- Installation of secure surfaces around construction sites;
- Supervision over observation of safety regulations for construction workers;
- Mechanical soil-testing in order to analyze soil resistance;
- Carrying out of various tests on new structures (welding tests for iron structures and concrete tests for concrete buildings);
- Observation of energy efficiency of buildings;
- Observation of fire safety in buildings;
- Drafting of a Guideline for Promotion of Safety of the Elderly and Disabled in Residential Units; Promoting safety in stairwells as well as wet areas such as bathroom and washroom floor, swimming pools especially for the Elderly and Disabled.
- Awareness campaign for parents to promote child safety dealing with household-specific hazards (such as chemicals, hazardous equipment, household appliances etc.) through the publication of print material;
- Awareness campaign to educate citizens on how to prevent silent deaths caused by CO suffocation;

Most important future programs include:

- Establishment of cross-sectoral committees in the District's urban management including relevant entities from the six sub-districts for the prevention of incidents in residential units;
- Drafting of continuous supervisory plans to overlook safety issues in residential environments;
- Finalization of new regulations to promote safety;
- Implementation of new rules and regulations in pedestrian pavements and residential buildings to facilitate the movement of disabled citizens;
- Increased attention to the external features of buildings with the objective to prevent safety incidents.

Traffic

- Installation of solar-powered warning signals, caution tanks, plastic cylinders and lining around major forks on motorways in order to alert drivers;
- Installation of pedestrian flyovers, especially on motorways;
- Installation of street bumps at points with increased pedestrian traffic, especially around schools to increase safety levels for pedestrians;
- Improvement of pedestrian pavements to facilitate the traffic of disabled citizens;
- Installation of push buttons at traffic lights to increase the safety of the crossing of blind citizens;
- Installation of mirrors to prevent collisions between vehicles and express bus services;
- Correction of geometrical characteristics of traffic routes to increase safety;
- Presence of traffic police at the crossings to prevent bicycle and pedestrians accidents

Occupational

The most important initiatives included:

- Standardization and related education on the utilization of venting systems for gas-fueled equipment;
- Creation of relevant pavement space to prevent safety incidents around gas distribution facilities;
- Collaboration with all utilities companies (gas, water, sewage and electricity) and collection of data to prevent any physical accidents involving urban development equipment with utilities facilities;
- Prevention of accidents in projects sites through relevant warning signs;
- Improvement of water canals in order to revitalize greenery;
- Utilization of signs and warning bands to make citizens aware of construction and development activity;

Most important future programs include:

- Improvement of the traditional sewage system in order to prevent street collapses in light of the construction of a modern sewage system;
- Identification and repair of the metal lids of water canals;
- Improvement of street pavements;
- Identification of water accumulation points and expansion of water canals to avoid water-related hazards;
- Construction of a new sewage system.

School

- Holding of specialized meetings between working committees and representatives of the Ministry of Education and the coordination of efforts to reduce the safety risks for primary schoolchildren;
- Education of parents of primary schoolchildren with regards to safety issues in the transportation between homes and schools;
- Identification and improvement of all shortcomings in urban infrastructure (such as water canals, bridges etc.) that could become hazardous for schoolchildren;
- Identification of schools that may not be resistant to earthquakes and other natural disasters and drafting of plans on how to improve the conditions of such properties;
- Implementation of the project entitled “Safe Crossings” in collaboration with other relevant organizations;
- Design and implementation of educational workshops on issues related to safety of children;
- Drafting and implementation of a project on “improvement of commuting related to schoolchildren”;
- Academic study on “Behavior Patterns of Schoolchildren” with the objective of reducing threats and vulnerabilities in school environments as well as during commuting;
- Equipping schools and educational institutions with firefighting equipment

Sports and Leisure

- Improvement and increase in safety of children’s playgrounds (upgrading the surface as well as play instruments);
- Installation of signs indicating “drinking water”/ “non-drinking water” for safety and health purposes in public parks and facilities;
- Increased installation of sports tools for general population’s use in public parks;
- Preparation of relevant material for publications on “safety in leisure activities”;
- Data collection on incidents and accidents in Leisure Event;
- Improvement and increase in safety of children’s playgrounds (upgrading the surface as well as play instruments);
- Increased installation of sports tools for general population’s use in public parks;

Natural Disaster

Considering the fact that Tehran is prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, as well as the likelihood of epidemic and unexpected developments, this Working Group has focused on reducing the time to respond to disasters as well as increasing the efficiency of responses with the objective to reduce damages and losses.

- Convention of Working Group sessions involving representatives of relevant entities such as fast-response organizations (fire brigades, emergency medical services, utilities, telecommunications, aerial transportation, police, Basij mobilization forces, gas distribution etc.) as well as community-based organizations;
- Convention of Crisis Management Headquarters' meetings in the District Municipality as well as in sub-districts;
- Distribution of search and rescue tools and equipment in special locations across the District (machinery, equipment, snow-clearance vehicles, salt and sand etc.);
- Organization of educational workshops for all relevant organizations with regard to search and rescue (topics such as earthquakes, floods, fire, epidemics, heavy rain etc.);
- Implementation of various drills to practice and prepare for crisis situations;
- Identification and improvement of all vulnerable and hazardous streets and locations;

- Organization of workshops on "Life and Environment" for all age groups;
- Drafting of automated processes for the registration of all natural disasters;
- Creation of search and rescue teams and their equipment;
- Identification of all old structures in the District and initiation of the process to renovate such buildings and structures;
- Public awareness campaign through banners and posters in order to reduce incidents;
- Publication of brochures and other awareness materials for residential and commercial units in all fields related to natural disasters;
- Installation of warning signs (e.g. For drinking water);
- Identification of old tall trees and the axing of such trees to avoid incidents related to their collapse;
- Increasing supervision on the performance of Snow Removal Division especially in risky areas (e.g. schools, business districts, etc.)

Violence and Social Damages Prevention

The most important actions included:

- Categorization and prioritization of social vulnerabilities;
- Data processing relating to "addiction" and "drugs";
- Data collection on incidents and accidents emerging from social vulnerabilities;
- Data processing relating to collected information on "divorce";

- Data processing relating to collected information on “child labor” and “street children”;
- Collaboration with the District’s NGOs and other relevant entities;
- Promotion and advocacy of a safety culture in line with the Safe Community indicators;
- Holding of specialized workshops for 'bread winning' women
- Holding of educational workshops on drug and alcohol abuse especially for the youth
- Removing beggars from the streets and transferring them to rehabilitation centers to get vocational training

Suicide Prevention

- Formation of specialized working group for suicide prevention in North Districts of Tehran (1, 2, 3, 4) under District 3 responsibility;
- Holding seminars on the subject of suicide prevention (incepted from February 2011 onwards every three month).

Programs aiming at “High-risk groups”

The most vulnerable group in District 3 is children group. Our work has a special focus on children.

Furthermore, as homes are a key location for incidents leading to injuries, many of the above mentioned initiatives have focused on educating housewives on safety at home. For the same group (housewives and women in general) a special women-only park has been established in District 3 to provide this group with a safe environment for leisure and sports activities.

In addition, special workshops have been designed and held for young girls to help them prevent domestic violence against them and also violence on streets.

Surveillance of injuries

District 3 has engaged in an extensive collection and registration of data. A project under the title: “Unique Injury Registration System” has been outsourced to a local firm. The subcontractor has designed the mentioned system by involving governmental or non-governmental entities that are related to injuries or accidents.

The objectives of this system are to:

- Limit statistical mistakes of organizational reports
- Facilitate information availability
- Classify corporate injuries and accidents
- Establish effective participation between organizations
- Produce reliable reports of accident and injuries throughout Tehran.

The executive objectives in this project include:

- Investigate factors that may cause accidents and injuries
- Determine injuries and accident codes
- Design the procedure to gather information on injuries and accidents
- Design forms for the documentation of injuries and accidents
- Design templates for reports
- Monitor and evaluate activities
- Execute programs based on timetable
- Standardize the process of gathering information
- Design injury registration software
- Prepare a guideline for using the software

So far, the following steps have been taken:

- Communicating with various organizations
- Collecting information from organizations
- Organizing focus group discussions about injuries registration
- Investigating injuries and accidents registration process
- Designing and testing injury forms in some organizations

Publications

- Snow Booklet (safety on snow)
- b) Booklet on Sub-Districts (guide to emergency, medical and educational centers, hospitals, fire brigades ... in each sub-district)
- Guide for Citizens (including guidelines for mental health, time management, dealing with municipal entities etc.);
- Many brochures on safety related issues;
- Bilingual brochures for the benefit of foreign residents.

Staff

Organization:

Tehran Municipality headed by: Dr. MB Ghalibaf, the mayor of Tehran.

Tehran Safe Community council for policy and planning Headed by: Dr. H.Moazzen, the special representative from the mayor of Tehran and the head.

Safe Community Committee at the District 3:

Head: P. Pashmchi Zadeh, the Mayor;

Secretary: S.M. Reza.Mousavi;

Advisor: Behzad Banaei

Members:

Incidents in Schools and Educational Facilities, Traffic Incidents and Accidents, Working Space and Urban Development, Social Vulnerabilities, Incidents in Leisure Events, Incidents Residential Units, Public Relations and Public Education, Incidents, Natural Disasters & Urban Environment.

National / International commitments

- We have joined national conferences such as:
 - Conference on the joining of 5 Tehran Districts to the International Safe Community Network;
 - National Conference on Safe Community in Tehran;
 - Training workshop on preventing intentional injuries and incidents such as suicides.

- Participated in international conferences such as:
 - Preparation of an article for participation at the 20th International Conference on Safe Community in 2011, Sweden.