

## Tips to Create a Successful Drug Free Zone

- \* Partner with law enforcement, schools, treatment programs, local government, businesses, and community organizations.
- \* Use partnerships to create a powerful force to carry out successful Drug Free Zone campaigns.
- \* Take charge and decide what action is needed.
- \* Form liaisons with government.
- \* Convince government to listen and respond to the community's needs.
- \* Target specific problem areas.
- \* Develop realistic goals.
- \* Monitor progress.



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## FACTS ABOUT DRUG FREE ZONES IN BUTTE COUNTY

Empower Your Neighborhood



BUTTE COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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## What is a Drug Free Zone?

A Drug Free Zone is any specific location in the community, especially an area where children congregate, which the citizens perceive as being a place where drug trafficking or alcohol availability problems exist, and the citizens decide to take action. Typically, communities have targeted schools and school yards, parks and playgrounds, public housing developments, and specific neighborhoods or city blocks.

## Why Start a Drug Free Zone?

Across the nation, communities experience a variety of problems associated with drugs and alcohol. Citizens have realized that if these problems are to be eliminated “someone” must do something about it. The entire community—schools, treatment providers, local government, the judicial system, and community leaders—must join forces to clean up the neighborhood and create a better, safer, and healthier place to live. Law enforcement can’t do it alone.

## Neighborhood Problems to Watch For

- \* Deteriorating neighborhoods
- \* Graffiti
- \* Drug Dealing
- \* Loss of public facilities, such as parks and playgrounds.
- \* Cars speeding up and down streets.
- \* Violence
- \* Gun Shots
- \* Gang activity
- \* Prostitution
- \* Increased Crime
- \* Abundance of liquor outlets in a concentrated area.

## How Can We Have a Drug Free Zone in Our Neighborhood?

**Step 1:** You must be an active Neighborhood Watch group before you are a Drug Free Zone. Neighborhood Watch teaches you how to get organized, how to report suspicious activities, how to better secure your homes and how to work with law enforcement. To start a Neighborhood Watch group, call the Sheriff’s Crime Prevention Unit at (530) 538-7822.



**Step 2:** Once you’ve become a Neighborhood Watch group, plan to have a community meeting. Invite all your neighbors and include: law enforcement, code enforcement, etc. Make a map of your neighborhood and a proposed map of the Drug Free Zone.

**Step 3:** Once you’ve been a Neighborhood Watch group for one year, contact the District Attorney’s Office about having a Drug Free Zone presentation. Ask the Butte County Sheriff’s Office Crime Prevention Unit for a Drug Free Zone petition and circulate it around your proposed Drug Free Zone.

**Step 4:** Once the District Attorney agrees to your proposed Drug Free Zone, write a resolution authorizing the creation of a Drug Free Zone to present to the Butte County Board of Supervisors.

**Step 5:** Purchase and post your Drug Free Zone signs. Signs are available from the Butte County Sheriff’s Office Crime Prevention Unit.

**Step 6:** Stay active and work together to not only get rid of established drug houses but to help prevent new ones from starting. Team work is absolutely necessary.