



## Crime Prevention for a Safe and Secure Community

“National Community Safety Initiative” Underway from Saturday 11 – Monday 20 October!

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The number of reported crimes\* in Shizuoka City had been decreasing yearly since 2000. However, since 2023, the trend has reversed, and cases are now increasing. In order to create a community where everyone can feel safe and secure and no one has to worry about crime, it is important for city government, police, and community members to come together as one to protect the communities we live in.

\*Reports received by police of crimes stipulated in the Penal Code.

### Beware of Scams!

Recently, there has been a rise in scams involving social media, including investment scams and romance scams. These crimes are affecting not only older adults but also younger people. In addition, impersonation scams (where fraudsters pretend to be police officers) are also increasing. Please remember, real police officers will never call to say you are under investigation, nor will they send images of police ID cards or arrest warrants. If something feels suspicious, hang up or disconnect the video call immediately and consult your nearest police station in person.

- If you receive a phone call, email or DM regarding cash, your cash card, or investment opportunities, consult with your family or the police.
- Never hand cash or cards to a stranger.
- We recommend installing a recording device or a device to block unwanted calls. (The city rents out recording devices which have proven to be effective against scams over the phone. Conditions apply.)

For more information about impersonation scams involving police officers, visit:

<https://www.npa.go.jp/bureau/safetylife/sos47/new-topics/241218/02.html>



### Working Together Towards a Safer Community

Simple acts of communication (such as greeting neighbors) and local crime prevention efforts help deter suspicious individuals and potential offenders.

#### Blue-Light Crime Prevention Patrols

These patrols use vehicles equipped with blue rotating lights and are conducted by the city, local organizations, and businesses.

#### Shizuoka Crime Prevention Patrol Volunteers

Volunteers wear armbands and keep watch over their neighborhoods while going for walks or shopping. Currently, around 1,500 people are registered. We encourage you to join!

For details on how to register, visit:

<https://www.city.shizuoka.lg.jp/s9623/s000016.html>



### Bicycle Theft Remains a Persistent Problem

In 2024, bicycle theft accounted for approximately 20% of all recognized criminal offenses in Shizuoka City. Of these cases, around 80% involved unlocked bicycles. Most thefts occur at bicycle parking areas near stations, but many also happen at private residences. Whenever you leave your bicycle, be sure to lock it, and use a secondary lock such as a wire lock to secure it with two layers of protection.



#### Translated by:

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City of Shizuoka  
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