Defensible Space…
Fifteen Reasons Why People Don’t Do It
Workshop Instructions

**Purpose:** Provide the materials and instructions necessary to conduct a “Defensible Space… Fifteen Reasons Why People Don’t Do It” workshop for homeowners.

**Workshop Objectives:** The objectives for conducting this workshop are to: have homeowners identify and prioritize the obstacles to creating defensible space in their neighborhoods; initiate discussion on possible ways to remove the obstacles; and identify volunteers and resources needed to implement the solutions.

**Time requirements:** This program usually takes approximately one hour to complete. This is influenced, however, by the amount of discussion that takes place.

**Materials Needed:**

- Computer and projector to show PowerPoint program.
- A CD of the PowerPoint program.
- Copies of the “Defensible Space… Fifteen Reasons Why People Don’t Do It” handout for each participant.
- “Defensible Space… Fifteen Reasons Why People Don’t Do It” poster.
- One-half inch or larger, sticky-back dots pre-cut into sets of three dots. There should be enough sets for each participant.
- Program evaluation form.

**Steps**

- **Set-up:** Display poster at the front of the room on the wall or on an easel.
- **Explanation:** Inform the audience that they will be presented with fifteen reasons that homeowners have given for not creating defensible space. At the end of the presentation, they will be asked to designate the top three reasons why defensible space isn’t created in their neighborhood by placing a colored dot in the appropriate box on the poster. Distribute sets of three dots to each participant. At this time, distribute the “Defensible Space… Fifteen Reasons Why People Don’t Do It” handout. The audience can keep track of their top three reasons by referring to the handout.
• Presentation: Deliver the “Defensible Space… Fifteen Reasons Why People Don’t Do It” PowerPoint presentation. At the end of the presentation, ask if there any other reasons that haven’t been discussed. Often, suggestions are made by participants which are already included within the fifteen reasons. To promote ownership in the process, it is usually best to include their suggestion under “Other.”

• Prioritization: Ask the participants to come up to the poster and place a dot in the boxes associated with their top three responses. If they feel strongly about one particular reason, they can place all three dots in one box.

• Discussion: Starting with the most popular response, ask the participants to identify possible solutions. Then determine what resources (human, material, etc,) are needed to implement the solution and what is available (i.e., volunteers, funds, etc,) and what needs to be acquired. Once the top issue is thoroughly discussed, change to the next most popular issue. Repeat the process as time allows. Schedule a follow-up meeting.

• Results: Complete the evaluation form and fax to Ed Smith at 775-782-9968.

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