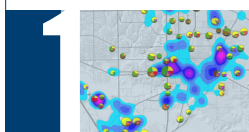


# 5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HOT SPOTS POLICING & THE "KOPER CURVE" THEORY

**"Hot spots" policing is highly effective, and many police leaders use the term to describe their policing strategy. This is not surprising in that a substantial amount of crime is produced in a few small areas (i.e., streets segments or blocks). In some cases, as much as 50% of calls for service or incidents of crime can be found in less than 5% of places (e.g., blocks) (Weisburd, D., 2015). However, while hot spots policing may positively impact crime, police leaders should consider using the "Koper Curve" Principle to maximize crime reduction and increase community satisfaction and legitimacy. The Koper Curve, emanating from the Minneapolis Hot Spots Policing experiment and tested in Sacramento, suggests that random 10-15 minute patrols at least every two hours in hot spots optimized deterrence.**



Evidence-Based Policing Matrix and in the U.S. DOJ's CrimeSolutions.gov, a "what works" clearinghouse.

## 1 "HOT SPOTS" POLICING IS EFFECTIVE

Research has demonstrated that hot spots policing can be an effective crime reduction strategy. This finding is confirmed in George Mason University's



impractical. The Koper Curve offers a more practical and efficient approach.

## 2 WHAT OFFICERS DO IN HOT SPOTS MATTERS

Simply telling officers to patrol hot spots, to increase misdemeanor arrests in those areas or to remain stationary in those areas for prolonged periods of time is costly and



Intermittent patrol of micro-hot spots (street segments or blocks) of 10-16 minutes at least every two hours extends deterrence. According to Koper (1995), the likelihood of crime or disorder within 30 minutes after a patrol drive through was 15%; for stops of 10-16 minutes, the likelihood was reduced to 4%, causing deterrence to "peak."

## 3 PROACTIVE 10-16 MINUTE STOPS IN HOT SPOTS MAXIMIZES DETERRENCE



To ensure that the patrols do not become predictable and therefore avoidable, patrols in micro-hot spots should be random and intermittent, as opposed to regularly scheduled, e.g., every two hours. CAD and Automated Vehicle Locators (AVLs) can be used to monitor and deploy patrol in hot spots.

## 4 HOT SPOT VISITS OR STOPS MUST BE RANDOM AND INTERMITTENT



In addition to reducing Part I crimes in hot spots, using the Koper Curve Principle to guide deployment and patrol strategy makes better use of officer time. By increasing visibility and positive community engagement within hot spots, agencies are likely to enhance community trust and legitimacy, which may further impact crime reduction and improve satisfaction.

## 5 THE BENEFITS OF USING KOPER CURVE THEORY GO BEYOND CRIME REDUCTION

When combined with situational and problem-oriented policing strategies implemented by patrol officers and other units or officers, hot spots policing using the Koper Curve Principle can enhance policing effectiveness, thereby substantially reducing crime not only in hot spots, but possibly the jurisdiction overall. Law enforcement leaders should remember it is also important for patrol and community policing units to engage the community using problem-solving approaches to eliminate conditions that may facilitate crime, including vacant properties, poor lighting, nuisance and public order offenses, and debris and graffiti.

The Police Foundation is the oldest nationally-known, non-profit, non-partisan, and non-membership-driven organization dedicated to improving America's most noble profession – policing. The Police Foundation has been on the cutting edge of police innovation for 45 years since it was established by the Ford Foundation as a result of the President's Commission on the Challenge of Crime in a Free Society.