



Neighborhood Watch

What is Neighborhood Watch?

- Neighbors getting to know each other, taking the time to care about each other and work together for mutual assistance
- Training citizens to recognize and reports suspicious activities in their neighborhoods
- Citizens implementing crime prevention strategies such as home security
- Neighbors looking out for each other

Why do we have Neighborhood Watch?

- There can't be a law enforcement officer on every corner, so citizen involvement is essential
- Citizens and law enforcement working together can help to deter/fight crime.
- The people within the neighborhood are the ones that really know what is going on in the community
- Essentially, the citizens are the "eyes and ears" of our neighborhoods, which can help with investigations
- Learn how to report a crime: What to look for, how to describe the person or vehicle and other information such as location or names

How to start a Neighborhood Watch?

- Get interest from the neighborhood and schedule a meeting amongst yourselves
- Ask the Criminal Resource Officer to respond to the meeting to discuss crime statistics and crime prevention techniques
- Select a Block Captain
 - The role of the block captain is to be a spokesperson for the group
 - Serve as the liason between law enforcement and the NW group
 - Organize the NW meetings
 - Recruit neighbors to share in responsibilities
 - Maintain a list of the members
 - Designate work assignments
 - Vacation Home Watch
 - Which is also still available at the police department
 - Neighborhood Patrols if it is needed
 - Fundraising
 - Purchase Neighborhood Watch Signs
 - Secretarial Duties
- Develop and distribute maps



- Identifies the block captain
- Identifies streets
- Show names, address, phone numbers of each home
- Identify senior citizens, pets and other items of importance in your home
- Make, model and license plate numbers of vehicles
- Emergency and non-emergency numbers
- Phone numbers of your city/county services, including business numbers for police and fire department
- Consider exchanging the following types of basic information with your neighbors:
 - Home and work numbers
 - Number of family members or residents including names and ages
 - Work hours
 - School or day care hours or children
 - Pets
 - Emergency numbers
 - Planned vacations
 - Scheduled deliveries or repair
 - Explain recent residential burglary

How to maintain:

- It does not require frequent meetings and it does not ask anyone to take any personal risks to prevent crime
- Block captain's role is to assist the NW, not to monitor problems. Problems and crimes should still be left in the hands of the police
- Be alert to unusual or suspicious behavior in your neighborhood and call police if warranted
- Write down descriptions of people and license plate numbers of vehicles that you may be of importance
- Tell a trusted neighbor when your house will be unoccupied for an extended period of time including: how to reach you in an emergency, pick up mail, garbage cans, newspapers