



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GOALS



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WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

Neighborhood Watch enlist the active participation of citizens in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce burglaries and other neighborhood crimes. Its primary purpose is the protection of property and increased safety for you and your neighbors.

THREE MAIN FUNCTIONS

The 3 main functions of a successful Neighborhood Watch group is to **conduct** neighborhood patrol, **report** suspicious activity and **report** criminal activity.

It is NEVER the responsibility of a Neighborhood Watch member to intervene or apprehend suspects. Leave that to the police officers.

OVERALL GOAL

Criminals do not want to be seen. The goal of a Neighborhood Watch group is to create a strong perception that suspicious or criminal activity is **being observed**.



5 STEPS

FOR A SUCCESSFUL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

STEP 1

SELECT A BLOCK CAPTAIN

Select a block captain, or co-captains, that will act as a point person for APD and assist in facilitating meetings.

STEP 2

IDENTIFY PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS

Begin reaching out to all of your neighbors to seek participation in your Neighborhood Watch group. Consider going door-to-door in teams, this gives you a chance to get to know your neighbors and identify those who may not want to participate.

STEP 3

GATHER INFORMATION

In order to keep neighbors connected, provide information to emergency personnel (if needed) and identify what vehicles or people belong in your neighborhood, identify the following:

- Addresses
- Phone numbers & emails
- Household occupants (names, sex and age)
- Household vehicles (color, make, & license plate number)

STEP 4

CREATE A MAP

Create a map that includes each household's demographics and share among participants. All maps should be confidential and each group is responsible for updating any changes.

STEP 5

TIME TO GET ACTIVE!

Neighborhood watch groups are designed to allow you and your neighbors to continue to enjoy your everyday routine by making a few simple adjustments. "Patrol" can range from neighborhood dog walks to holiday house competitions. Remember, more eyes on the street.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK CAPTAIN



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A watch captain is very important to the success of the program! Your involvement and enthusiasm will get the other neighbors involved.

A BLOCK CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES

As a Block Captain, you will arrange the Neighborhood Watch meetings or activities. Don't let it scare you! It will take less time than you think, but you can always enlist the support of a few co-captains.

Your **first** Neighborhood Watch meeting can be used to organize your group and establish the meaning and purpose of the Neighborhood Watch program and how it will benefit them, or your first "meeting" could just be a fun activity.

The block captain is responsible for maintaining sign-in sheets for each meeting and making changes to the neighborhood's map.

The Neighborhood Watch captain is the liaison between the Alameda Police Department and your neighborhood. APD may send over information to be distributed to your neighbors or you may request a visit from APD at your next meeting.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MAP



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It is important to remember that your Neighborhood Watch maps are to remain
confidential.

The purpose of creating a neighborhood map is to be able to quickly communicate with neighbors, easily identify anything that is out of place, and accurately convey information to emergency personnel if needed.

MAP EXAMPLE

Names _____
Car Info _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Misc. _____

The
Smiths

Names _____
Car Info _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Misc. _____

The
Hiltons

Names _____
Car Info _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Misc. _____

The
Jacksons

Universal Avenue

The
Baldwins

Names _____
Car Info _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Misc. _____

The
Kardashians

Names _____
Car Info _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Misc. _____

The
Osbornes

Names _____
Car Info _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Misc. _____

Nicolas Street

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETINGS



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Get as many neighbors involved as possible. Not everyone will want to be a part of the program, and that's all right. Make sure they know about the Neighborhood Watch program and that they are always welcome to come to the get-togethers and events.

HOSTING YOUR MEETINGS

Make it convenient! Host meetings in your neighborhood so that your neighbors will come. Meetings can be held indoors or outdoors, depending on the weather. If outside, ask the participants to bring their own chairs. Most meetings are held outdoors, in the front of the home, in the driveway, garage, etc.

At minimum host a meeting at least twice a year. Evenings Mondays through Thursdays are typically the best days to host a meeting. It allows everyone to get home and not have to worry about weekend activities.

MEETING TOPIC IDEAS

Create an agenda for your meeting to keep everyone on track and to be mindful of your neighbor's time. In addition to using the meetings as an opportunity to socializes, consider planning for upcoming events, discussing recent activities or concerns or bring in guest speakers.

- Personal safety and crime awareness
- How to report suspicious activity or a crime
- Child, teen or senior safety
- Theft
- Fraud or scams



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IDEAS



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THE GOAL OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ACTIVITIES IS TO INCREASE THE PERCEPTION THAT ANY UNWELCOMED BEHAVIOR IS BEING OBSERVED.

- Leave a few minutes early and loop around your neighborhood to check for anything out of the ordinary.
- Bring eyes to your street & enjoy your morning coffee on the porch.
- In the evening, leave the porch light on.
- Walk your dog through the neighborhood.
- Organize a neighborhood outdoor workout group.
- Organize a neighborhood walking group.
- Coordinate neighborhood activities—driveway movie nights, barbeques, ice cream socials, etc.
- Show pride & ownership and consider a neighborhood holiday decoration competition.
- Consider leaving the blinds open on an elevated window with a light on in a room that faces the street.
- Sidewalk and/or chalk drawing contest.
- Create a whistle or horn system to alert neighbors.



ALAMEDA POLICE SUPPORTING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



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The Alameda Police Department is here to support you and your neighborhood. While, your Neighborhood Watch meetings do not require the presence of an APD representative, you may request their appearance when needed.*

*Based on officer availability

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

In addition to providing the latest crime stats and trends in your area, APD can present on a variety of topics. The following are a few examples:

- First meeting—How To Start A Successful Neighborhood Watch Group
- Home and Vehicle Security
- Fraud and Scams
- Suspicious Activity: What It Is and How To Report It
- When To Call The Police and Information To Provide
- Prioritizing Calls: Who Gets The Police First
- Animals in Alameda

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

In addition to assisting with getting your group going and presenting at meetings, APD's COPPS Unit can provide the following for individual households:

- Vacation Security Checks
- Home Security Assessments
- Participation in the Citizen Police Academy

