

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

I. Definition:

A program involving the joint efforts of the police or sheriff's department and the community, designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation, and to encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

II. Needs:

In recent years, neighborhoods have experienced rapid change. The old, well-established neighborhood has been replaced by a highly transient, growing community where people seek more and more privacy. This life-style tends to promote unfamiliarity with neighbors and a corresponding lack of concern. Unfortunately, this enhances the opportunity for the criminal element and increases the community's vulnerability to crime.

This condition dictates the need for a crime prevention program which will enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

III. Objective of Neighborhood Watch:

The main objective of Neighborhood Watch is to reduce the incidence of crime by:

1. Increasing citizens' awareness of burglary and other neighborhood crime through a continuing information program. (Literature distribution)
2. Training citizens in the means of better property security and assist them in making their property more secure. (Operation Identification and Security Surveys)
3. Developing a neighborhood action program where neighbors help watch each other's property and report suspicious persons and activities to law enforcement agencies. (Neighborhood Watch)
4. Encouraging all citizens to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in reporting crime.
5. Enlisting each home/apartment/business in Operation Identification.

IV. Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Neighborhood Coordinator

- a. Coordinates activities of Block Captains and Block Watchers participating in program.

- b. Recruits neighborhood residents into the program.
- c. Acts as a liaison with the police or sheriff's department and disseminates information communicated to them which may lead to the solution of a crime.

2. Block Captain

- a. Hosts a Neighborhood Watch meeting.
- b. Personally visits each home/apartment/business in his/her block, announcing the meeting and encouraging neighbors to participate.
- c. Acts as a base station for Operation Identification. In this manner, neighbors can pick up Operation Identification materials from their Block Captain in order to participate in the program. The goal of 100% participation is essential in order to achieve the program objectives. The Block Captain is encouraged to personally contact those neighbors who have not participated in the program.
- d. Acts as a liaison with the law enforcement department and disseminates any information communicated to them which may lead to the solution of a crime.
- e. Distributes Crime Prevention materials to those residents who were unable to attend meetings.
- f. Cooperates and assists Neighborhood Coordinator.

3. Block Watcher

- a. Acts as eyes and ears for their neighbors and reports any suspicious activity.
- b. Studies crime prevention materials furnished to them.
- c. Checks neighbors' homes when they are out-of-town.
- d. Cooperates and assists the Block Captain.
- e. Participates in Operation Identification.