



Neighborhood Watch

A healthy community program



What is Neighborhood Watch?

1. Neighborhood Watch is a police department facilitated community action and problem-solving program.
2. Neighborhood Watch encourages community collaboration to maintain a healthy and vibrant neighborhood; an element shown by research to significantly reduce your risk for residential crime.
3. Through collaboration neighbors develop a plan to communicate and tackle issues like crime and suspicious activity.
4. Neighborhood Watch is not a guard duty.
5. Neighborhood Watch teaches neighbors to look at their community in a new way - understanding what is normal and identifying what is suspicious. Neighborhood Watch then teaches neighbors what resources to use and when to use them.
6. Through Neighborhood Watch you will learn:
 - About your neighbors.
 - About the Carlsbad Police Department.
 - About crime and police activity in your area.
 - How to effectively communicate with your neighbors.
 - How to call the police and what to say.
 - How to resolve the neighborhood issues that concern you.

Getting started

1. What area are you trying to organize?
 - a. A block or street?
 - b. A homeowners' association (HOA)?
2. If you choose a., a block or street
 - a. Look at a map and count out a group of **12-20 homes** that surround you. Include all the homes on the map. This is called a "Neighborhood Watch Block," and is a reasonably managed group of people.
3. If you choose b., your HOA
 - a. Look at a map and divide the area into groups of 12-20 **homes**.
 - b. Each group of **12-20 homes** will be called a Neighborhood Watch Block. The group of Neighborhood Watch Blocks will be called a "Neighborhood Watch District."
4. Now you need a Neighborhood Watch block captain.
 - a. You need one person per Neighborhood Watch block to be the block's captain.
 - b. A Neighborhood Watch block captain is the spokesperson for the block and the liaison the police department.
 - c. It is not a great investment of time, just a leadership role.

Stop - Block captains start here

Block Captains

1. Contact Carlsbad Police Department's Crime Prevention unit and get the "Neighborhood Watch Needs Assessment Survey."
 - a. E-mail jodee.reyes@carlsbadca.gov.
 - b. The Needs Assessment Survey gathers information necessary to personalize and facilitate your first Neighborhood Watch meeting.
 - c. In preparation for your meeting, information on the survey is analyzed and used to gather resource information and educational materials.
2. Introduce yourself.
 - a. Personally speak to the residents in your block of **12-20 homes**.
 - b. Use the first page of this guide to share the goal of the Neighborhood Watch Program.
 - c. Let neighbors know that participation does not require a great deal of their time; it is about getting to know each other and understanding resources like the police department.
 - d. Give a resident at each house a Needs assessment Survey.

- i. Let the neighbor know the purpose of the survey.
 - ii. Let the neighbor know this is a great opportunity to be heard.
- e. Arrange to collect the surveys.
 - i. Allow neighbors to be anonymous.
 - ii. Do not use mailboxes as it is against federal law.
- f. Ask your neighbors what day would be best for a Neighborhood Watch Meeting.
 - i. Meetings are Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday evenings at 6:30pm.

Scheduling a meeting

1. Once you have the majority of the surveys returned, it is time to arrange for your first Neighborhood Watch meeting.
 - a. E-mail jodee.reyes@carlsbadca.gov.
 - b. About 3 weeks advanced notice is needed.
 - c. Meetings last between 1½ - 2 hours, depending on participation.
 - d. Traditionally and logistically, meetings are held in the block captain's home.
 - e. Inside is usually better for lighting, sound and temperature.
 - f. Please do not have children at the meeting. Crime and police activity are not appropriate subjects for children.
 - g. Please do not have alcohol at the meeting.
2. Return the surveys to the police department well in advance of your meeting. Mail the surveys to the Crime Prevention Unit at

City of Carlsbad Police Department
Jodee Reyes, Community Relations Manager
2560 Orion Way
Carlsbad CA 92010

3. Distribute the invitation.
 - a. The Crime Prevention Unit will email you a personalized invitation for your meeting.
 - i. Have neighbors mark their calendars now.
 - ii. Send a reminder a day or so before the meeting.

Preparing for your meeting

1. Create a map of your Neighborhood Watch Block.
 - a. Include the streets and all the houses on your block.
 - b. This will create a visual image and a quick reference.
 - c. Put the name, address and phone number on each house.
 - d. Make copies to distribute to each neighbor at the meeting.
2. Consider offering simple refreshments such as cookies and coffee.
 - a. Allow neighbors to help you.

- b. Ask for volunteers to complete tasks.
 - c. If you want to be more elaborate, have a potluck before the meeting.
 - d. Please, no alcohol until after the meeting.
3. Provide and distribute nametags.
 - a. Remember you want your neighbors to get to know each other.
 - b. Write names and street numbers on the tag.
4. Assign tasks.
 - a. Have someone take attendance.
 - b. Have someone take notes.

What to do after your meeting

1. Distribute the minutes and educational materials.
2. Gather important neighborhood information.
 - a. Remember this information helps you and your neighbors establish what is normal so you can take-action when something is suspicious. It also gives you valuable resources to help your neighbors when necessary.
 - b. Examples are - work schedules, work phone number, contracted services (gardeners, nannies, and housekeepers), vehicle information and vacations.
3. Create a plan for neighborhood communication. Methods for enhancing communication are - e-mail trees, newsletters, regular social gatherings, social media private group and text trees.
5. Follow-through with the action plan developed at the first meeting. Assign tasks to get the ball rolling. Set a time to check-in to see how the tasks are developing toward the neighborhood goal. Regularly let the entire group know about the plan's progress.
5. Keep in touch with the Community Relations Manager. If you need resources, clarification or other help, do not hesitate to e-mail.
 - a. E-mail alerts are sent when usual crime trends occur in the area. For more crime statistics call 760-931-2201 or www.crimemapping.com.
 - b. For more crime prevention information go www.carlsbadca.gov/police.

