



NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH

The purpose of Neighborhood Crime Watch is to make you aware of the steps you can take to make your home and your neighborhood safer, and how to improve your community's quality of life.

You and your neighbors can help each other protect your entire neighborhood, and to make local law enforcement agencies more effective in the fight against crime through your involvement and participation. A Neighborhood Crime Watch project is the logical first step for any community organizing against crime; it requires minimal effort and gets people talking to and caring about one another.

How Does Crime Watch Work?

A neighborhood Crime Watch is a Crime Prevention Program where neighbors “**LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!**”

It encourages participant neighbors to get to know each other and their routines, so that any out of place activities can be observed, recognized for what it is **and reported**; in order to be investigated by the Police Department or other city agencies. The program also teaches participants techniques to reduce the risk of being victimized at home, in their vehicles and in public places. We train participants on the importance of recognizing suspicious activities and sounds, evaluate them and how to report them properly. It also teaches members how to make their homes more secure, and to secure, inventory and identify their property.

A Crime Watch group is a cohesive body of concerned, involved, Neighbors addressing issues that concern their entire community.

- A Neighborhood Watch **IS NOT** a vigilante force working outside the normal procedures of the Police Department.
- It **IS NOT** a program designed for participants to undertake personal risks to deter crime.
- And it **IS NOT** a 100% guarantee that crime will not occur in or around your neighborhood.

What Are The Benefits Of A Neighborhood Watch Program?

Some of the most important benefits of being involved in your own Neighborhood Watch Program are:

1. Building Strong and Safer Communities.

2. Neighborhood surveillance by you and your neighbors.

Working together with the Police Department, it creates a greater sense of security, well-being and reduction of fear of crime because you and your neighbors will “LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!” Most law enforcement agencies are limited in their available manpower, but with your help becoming the “**eyes and ears**” of the police in your community, crime prevention and control become more efficient and we all get better results.

3. Reduce the risk of being a crime victim.

You will be taught how to take preventative measures that substantially decrease the possibility of becoming a crime victim. It may also reduce the risk of vandalism, criminal activity, graffiti, personal assault, auto theft and other personal crimes against you or other family members.

4. Knowing your neighbors is the most important feature and benefit of this program.

You get to know participants regular patterns so you can see when something is unusual. You get to know how to contact them quickly. Being aware of the goings-on in your neighborhood is not invading anyone's privacy or snooping, it is guarding against trouble or any situation which could be dangerous to your neighborhood. It simply comes down to the motto, "WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!"

5. Access to Law Enforcement crime prevention information and activity reports.

Neighborhood Crime Watch Programs are designed to keep participants informed of crime trends and patterns so they will be better prepared to spot criminal activity in their neighborhood.

6. Neighborhood Crime Watch program helps you provide better reports

It trains you on how to observe and report suspicious and criminal activities occurring in your neighborhood and what information is needed by law enforcement officers need when you report a crime and why.

7. Address issues of mutual interest by getting together with your neighbors on a regular basis

These issues may be not only be related to Law Enforcement agencies, but also for Public Works, Code Enforcement, Health Department, Schools, City Authorities, Local Planning, etc. As an organized community you can be proactive about local tasks or issues which you probably alone may say "**Why doesn't someone do something about it...?**"

8. Crime Watch signs on your street send these messages:

- You have taken steps necessary to deter crime in your area.
- They are probably being watched.
- Your and your neighbors' homes are not easy targets.
- Your community knows what to do if suspicious or criminal activity is detected.
- Criminals report avoiding areas with Neighborhood Crime Watch signs posted.

Working together, as a community, you have the stepping stone needed to solve problems and improve the quality of life in your neighborhood.

Gerardo Becerra

Crime Watch Coordinator – Community Relations
Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department - North District