



ROSENBERG POLICE

"The Relentless Pursuit of Police Excellence"

Crime Prevention Unit

832-595-3749

How to Implement a Neighborhood Crime Watch Program

Neighborhood Crime Watch

A Neighborhood Crime Watch operates under 2 basic principles; knowing your neighbors and the reporting of suspicious activity. There are obvious benefits for Neighborhood Watch participants and their communities such as:

- A reduction in crime
- A better quality of life
- Building community pride and unity
- A greater sense of security, responsibility, and personal control
- Providing law enforcement agencies with volunteer support year round
- Becoming the extra "eyes and ears" of law enforcement personal and therefore reduce law enforcements burden

The basic idea is for neighbor's to watch out for each other. By looking out for your neighbor's property as if it were their own, you will be more likely to contact the police when you see any type of suspicious activity. Citizen's act as the extra "eyes and ears" for the police department so that calls to the police will be made at the time criminal activity is suspected. An alert and cooperative neighborhood is the greatest single defense against crime. By getting to know your neighbors and their vehicles, you have a much greater opportunity to be alert to suspicious people, vehicles, and/or sounds that could indicate criminal activity.

The Crime Prevention Unit of the Rosenberg Police Department will help you organize a Crime Watch Area. Once the area is organized, Officers will send bulletins to Crime Watch Areas on an as-needed basis. This information is sent regarding crimes of a serious nature or when a suspect's description is available. This information, coupled with the two basic principles of Crime Watch, can help citizens become an integral part of reducing the overall crime rate in their neighborhoods.

How to Get Started

Someone in your neighborhood must be instrumental in generating interest among the neighbors. After contacting your neighbors, the Crime Prevention Unit should be notified so that a meeting can be scheduled. Meetings can be held in homes, churches, schools, or any place that will accommodate the number of people that you are expecting. When contacting your neighbors to discuss the program, it is best to speak with them in person rather than leaving them a pamphlet or a note on their door telling them about a meeting. The response will be greater and you have already begun the first step in getting to know your neighbors.

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An Officer from the Crime Prevention Unit will 'chair' the meeting and outline the basic principles of the program and discuss the responsibilities of the Police Department and the homeowners. The length of the meeting may vary depending on the group's agenda. Upon Completion of the meeting your group will be ready to function as an active Neighborhood Crime Watch Area.

Rosenberg Police Department Responsibilities

- Assist you in getting your neighborhood organized.
- Attend your organizational meetings.
- Pass on important information to area coordinators in your neighborhood
- Assist with educational and social neighborhood meetings.

Area Coordinator Responsibilities

- Serve as the main contact between the Police Department and your neighborhood watch by receiving information from the Police Department and passing it on to the Block Captains.
- Organize Block Captains to best cover the neighborhood and recruit replacement Block Captains when positions open up.
- Purchase crime watch signs for the neighborhood.
- Encourage Block Captains to have biannual meetings with the crime watch residents.

Block Captain Responsibilities

- Pass on the information received from the area coordinator to the individual residential households.
- Distribute Home Security Manuals to each of the residents.
- Meet with residents on a semi-annual basis (a Crime Prevention Officer can make presentations at these meetings or you might have a block party).
- Maintain, update and distribute New Neighbor Packets. New Neighbor Packets should contain a cover letter. Neighborhood phone and/or email list, Neighborhood maps, various pamphlets.
- Notify Area Coordinator if they are no longer able to perform Block Captain Duties.

Neighbor Responsibilities

As a Crime Watch Neighbor, your responsibilities are to be a good neighbor by watching out for each other's property and by reporting suspicious activity to the police. You should know the three (3) neighbors across the street from your home, one on each side, and the three (3) neighbors behind your residence. YOU should have a heightened awareness for your neighbor's welfare and you should be more than willing to report suspicious activity to the police. Citizens can be assured that when they report suspicious activity, their names will be held in the strictest confidence.

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