

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



**PROGRAM IN FORCE**

**We report all Suspicious  
Persons & Activities to our  
Law Enforcement Agency**

# GET INVOLVED WITH NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

**B**y participating in a program where **"We Look Out For Each Other!"**, you can attack crime in your community through your Neighborhood Watch program.

**YES everyone in your neighborhood can participate in your individual Neighborhood Watch program.** Your entire community from seniors to children, can and should be responsible by making choices which will effect the welfare and security of your neighborhood. You just have to be a concerned citizen willing to be involved in improving your neighborhood.

You can get involved with Neighborhood Watch today by simply contacting your local law enforcement agency (Police or Sheriff's Departments) and volunteering. Make your neighborhood a more satisfying place to live by joining your neighbors in this program. The cost? Your time and commitment. That is a small price to pay to increase the safety and security of your home and neighborhood.

Each Neighborhood Watch unit is usually headed by a Block Captain. The Crime Prevention

Officer at your local law enforcement agency can give you their name and phone number. If a program has not begun in your neighborhood, you may be asked to start one, be given the tools and instruction necessary and, most certainly, you will be given the cooperation of your local law enforcement agency. The Block Captain, you or one of your neighbors, acts as the link between your group and your local law enforcement agency.

You will be given instruction in observation and recognition of sounds and smells and you will learn about home and auto security and you will become a Participant in your Neighborhood Watch program. You will be able to attend Neighborhood Watch meetings where topics about security, about your community, about emergency preparedness and homeland security are discussed by you together with your neighbors and a representative officer from your local law enforcement agency. Keep yourself informed by watching television news regularly or by creating your own community's website.

You will learn about your neighbors, their families, their hours of work and be able to protect them while at the same time they will be protecting you. **"We Look Out For Each Other!"** This mutual benefit goes beyond security of the neighborhood to

improving the quality of your life with better friendships and acquaintances. Get together such as pot luck dinners and block parties are encouraged in the program.

You will add your abilities to those of your local law enforcement agency which can not be everywhere, by keeping your senses alert to what is happening in your neighborhood. You will extend their ability to provide safety and security by reporting anything unusual or suspicious, 24 hours a day - seven days a week, in order for them to follow up on your leads. What you will **not** do is get physically involved with any activity you report or apprehension of any suspicious persons. This is the job of the law enforcement agency in your area.



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**Participation  
and Involvement  
are important to  
your Program**

# BENEFITS OF A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

**T**he eight most important benefits of being involved in your own Neighborhood Watch program are:

- 1** Neighborhood policing by you and your neighbors, together with your own police or sheriff, creates a greater sense of security, well-being, and reduction of fear of crime because you know you and your neighbors will **"... LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER."** You help stretch your tax dollar by using your senses and being involved with Neighborhood Watch, freeing up your local law enforcement agency.
- 2** Reduce the risk of being a crime victim. You are taught how to take preventive measures that substantially decrease the likelihood of becoming a crime victim. Not only does Neighborhood Watch reduce the risk of your home being burglarized, the instances of other crimes such as vandalism, graffiti, personal assault, auto theft and other personal crimes also decrease.

- 3** The Neighborhood Watch program trains you how to observe and report suspicious activities occurring in your neighborhood. It trains you on what information law enforcement officers need when you report a crime and why. It trains you to detect illegal activities 24 hours a day - seven days a week.

- 4** Knowing your neighbors is an 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. You get to know when they are on vacation, when they are away at work and who are the occupants of their home. Being alert to what is happening in your neighborhood is not involving yourself in other peoples business, it is guarding against any situation which could be a threat to your neighborhood. It simply comes down to our motto, **"WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER"**.

- 5** You have greater access to criminal activity information. Neighborhood 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. You may learn about sophisticated alert systems which some agencies use to alert their communities.

- 6** Participants get on-going training in how to protect themselves. In the early 1980's the terms of "Car-Jacking" or "ATM victims" were not even in our vocabulary. Do you or someone you

know have a car alarm, or an anti-theft device installed or provide other protection for you as a driver or your vehicle? Do you now carry an ATM card? And do you sometimes do your banking at odd hours? Neighborhood Watch provides this training.

- 7** Displaying Neighborhood Watch signs on your street and labels or decals in your windows tells a criminal that (a) you are not an easy target, that (b) they are probably being watched and (c) you have taken the steps necessary to deter crime in your neighborhood. Convicted burglars report avoiding neighborhoods that have Neighborhood Watch signs posted.

- 8** Address issues of mutual interest by getting together with your neighbors on a regular basis (monthly, quarterly, or what ever you wish). These may be for other crime prevention, fire prevention, local planning, or other projects which you alone may say, "Why don't they do something about...!" As a community, as an organization already working together as a Neighborhood Watch group, you have the stepping stone needed to getting things done.

***Just Do It!***



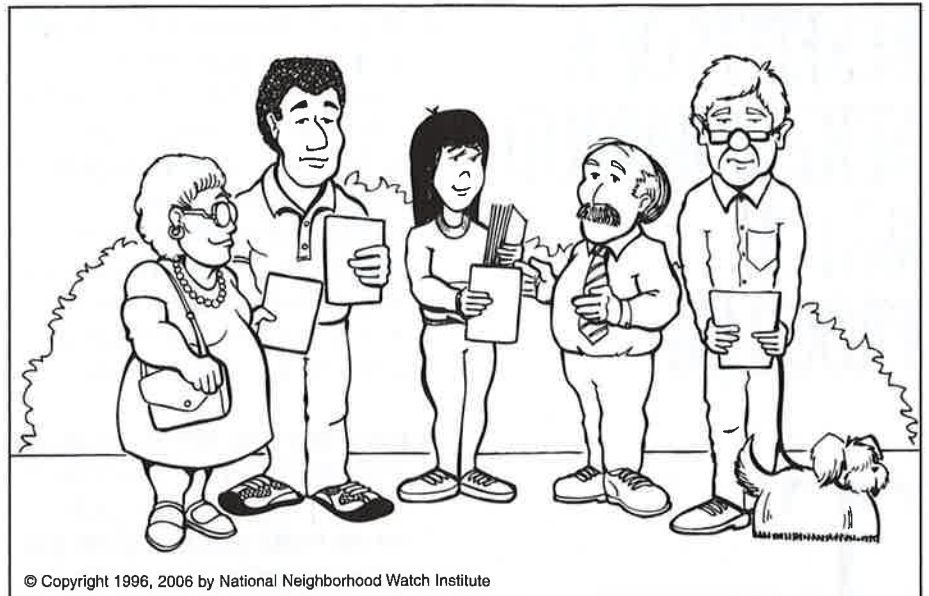
# HOW AND WHY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH WORKS

**T**he key to success in any Neighborhood Watch program are the Participants' willingness to **"Look Out For Each Other"** and the ability of each individual Participant to see what is suspicious, **then immediately reporting** it.

Improve  
the Odds

**1 to 1  
OR  
4500 to 1**

Why doesn't your local police or sheriff do this? Nationally, there is probably only one law enforcement officer **on patrol** at any one time for every 4,500 residents. Neighborhood Watch Participants are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, tremendously multiplying the effectiveness of any law enforcement department's effort to prevent crime. Therefore, it is important that Participants learn to properly observe, recognize and report suspicious activity.



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*Neighborhood  
Watch  
works  
like this:*

**2** Participants receive training in order to recognize suspicious activities, suspicious sounds and/or unusual smells.



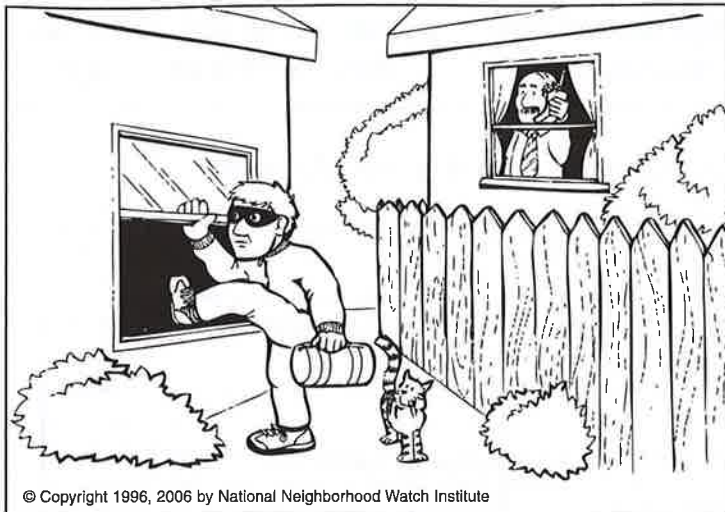
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**1** Neighbors *join together* to provide information about their households to one another with the aid of our NNWI Family Data Sheets, a vital part of this program. They become Participants in the Neighborhood Watch program

**3** If you witness a crime, or hear suspicious sounds, or detect unusual smells, Participants **immediately report** what they know to the Police or Sheriff.

4 Law enforcement will respond and take appropriate action. If the suspect is not caught in the act of committing the crime, your recognition of the suspect and your notes will be very vital in his/her apprehension and conviction.

5 As a Participant your *cooperation* with the police or sheriff is rewarded by you having saved your neighbor's property or even their life.



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**O**bservation takes many forms. From your home, a mobile home, apartment or condo you can determine your best observation points. From your auto, truck, SUV or bike you can observe both the road and other activities. Many people walk or jog as a daily routine, going to and from the store or work, or for their own physical fitness. Observation and recognition skills play a large part of your mutual protection. In rural areas, your truck, tractor, snow mobile or horse give you the opportunity to be mobile and to observe. Whatever your means of observation, determine if what you are observing is of a

suspicious nature. Remember, observations are not only made by sight, but also from sounds and smells.

**R**ecognition is of equal importance. Learn how to get a good description of the suspect, identify their vehicle, their method of operation and their activity. Recognize that when

your neighbor is away on vacation, a stranger should not be coming in and out of their

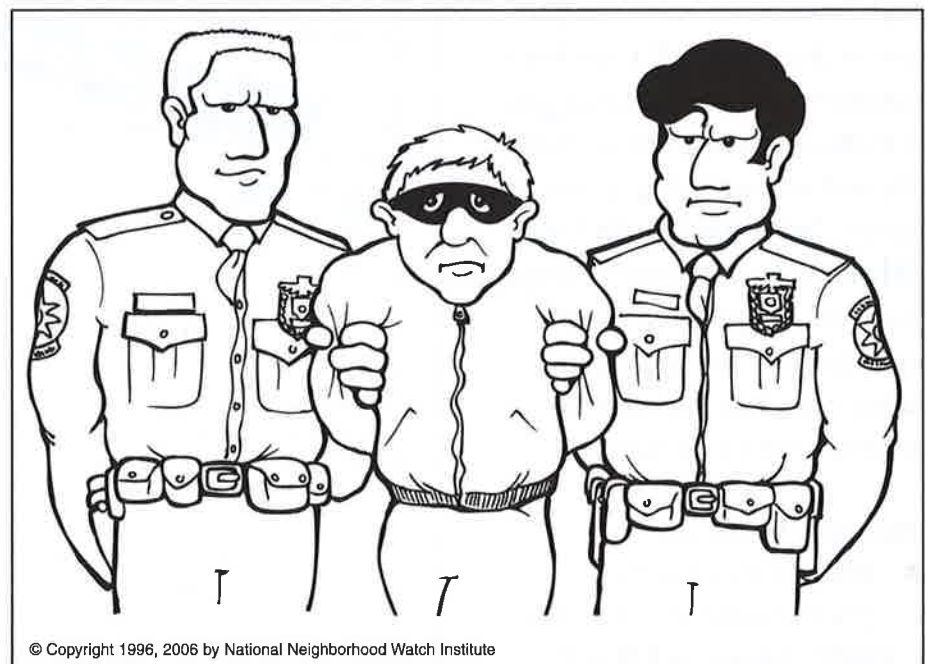
house. In a rural area, recognize that your neighbor probably is not aware that someone is beginning to cut down his 200-year old walnut tree. *In any situation, recognize what is routine and what can cause suspicion.*



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**W**hen your senses tell you something is wrong, without hesitation, *call your police or sheriff immediately.*

**T**ime is of the essence for prosecution!



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# PARTICIPANT'S RESPONSIBILITY

**A**s a Neighborhood Watch Participant, you have a responsibility to:

- 1** Learn your neighbor's names, including all occupants of their residences. Be able to recognize them and their vehicles without any hesitation.
- 2** Attend all Neighborhood Watch meetings.
- 3** Keep your personal copies of the NNWI Family Data Summary Sheets, NNWI Block Map, and NNWI Telephone Tree in an easily accessible, secure, place and continually updated with any new information provided by your Block Captain.
- 4** Properly identify all property using the guidelines suggested at your Neighborhood Watch meetings, involvement with Operation ID, in other home security programs and maintain an accurate inventory of your valuables.
- 5** Implement all security measures suggested by your local police department or sheriff's office after a security survey has been completed in your home.
- 6** Learn the techniques of getting an accurate description of a suspect or a vehicle. Practice these by writing them down from memory so when the need arises to actually report a suspicious incident, you are prepared. Rehearse the line: "**She Simply Could Not Have Had Any Really Good Early Warning About Him**" and remember the meaning of each letter.
- 7** Keep an eye on your neighbor's homes and report any suspicious activities to your local police department or sheriff's office. Again, write the description down so you forget nothing. **DO NOT DELAY REPORTING.** A few minutes delay is enough time to reduce the chances of ever catching the criminal. **No exceptions** to this rule insures that:  
**"WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!"**
- 8** Display Neighborhood Watch Window Warnings around your home. Report vandalized or missing signs so they can be replaced. Rusted signs need replacing — be sure you purchase aluminum or plastic signs. These are available from NNWI.
- 9** Teach children respect for the law and crime prevention techniques around the neighborhood and in their personal life and safety away from your home.
- 10** Remember always that your responsibility is to report crime. Do not take any risks to prevent a crime or try to make an arrest. The responsibility for apprehending criminals belongs to the police/sheriff.
- 11** When you plan to leave for any length of time, arrange to have your mail picked up or put on "Temporary Hold" at your Post Office. Newspapers should be picked up by a neighbor or stopped. Timers to activate lights, TV, and radio should be set up in your house. In rural areas, timers should be set to activate lights and radios in out buildings. Garbage cans should be taken in. Don't leave signals saying "no one is at home."
- 12** Notify your neighbors and the Block Captain you are going away so added attention can be placed on your home.
- 13** **Get Involved!!** Look out for each other. Be a good witness with written notes. Participate in your Neighborhood Watch programs.

**You can make a real dent in crime in your neighborhood.**