



# The Role Of Neighborhood Watch Members

If citizens get together to actively prevent crime half as often as criminals meet to create crime, the community would notice real change.

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## EYES AND EARS OBSERVATION

Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you during the day. If you observe something suspicious, notify law enforcement as soon as you can and try to describe the activity as accurately as possible. Stay on the telephone so you can provide additional information that may help law enforcement officers responding to the call.

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## REPORT SUSPICIOUS PERSONS BY ...

- Sex
- Race
- Height
- Weight
- Hair Color / Length
- Eyes / Glasses
- Tattoos / Scars
- Clothing
- Weapon
- Vehicle: Make/Model/Color/License Plate Number

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## SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES MAY INCLUDE:

- Individual walking around a residence, looking into windows or trying to force open doors
- Individual carrying any kind of weapon
- Solicitors asking unusual questions, appearing uncertain of questions or the purpose for their questions
- Unusual noises for the time of day
- Telephone caller asking for credit card or bank account numbers
- Individual carrying property out of residence or business at unusual times
- Car driving past area repeatedly, or parking and no one exits

## **COMMON DRUG ACTIVITIES**

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- Unusual or chemical odors coming from a residence
- Vacant or occupied house with unusually high amount of traffic to and from, especially late at night
- Double-parked cars in front of house
- Groups of people congregating on front steps of residence, or nearby
- People displaying large sums of cash, or carrying valuables into house but leaving without them

## **TEAMWORK**

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Working together for the good of the Watch and your neighborhood. Help out neighbors by watching their homes when they are away on vacation or just at work. Maintain a lived-in look to neighbors' residence by picking up newspapers and mail; parking your car in their driveway, and putting garbage cans out on the day it is normally collected. By maintaining a lived-in appearance to homes, you and your neighbors are working together to prevent criminal activity in the area.

There are many other ways you can work with your neighbors. If a neighbor or family in your area is a victim of crime, Watch members can show support by going with them to court, or contacting a Victim Assistance Center for them.

## **PRACTICE PERSONAL SAFETY AND SECURITY**

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Crime prevention is a way of life that offers greater security and peace of mind. Practice basic personal safety measures and always be aware of your surroundings, whether at home or away. Maximize home security by surveying and correcting security weaknesses in your residence. A law enforcement officer will survey your home with you and discuss ways to increase home security.

## **MEETINGS**

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Regularly attend meetings and work with other members on the goals and initiatives of the Watch. Not only will you receive crime prevention training at meetings, but also you will benefit from meeting neighbors and keeping up with area concerns as they arise.

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## **A WATCH CAPTAIN**

- Distributes information to members
- Recruits new members
- Provides current crime prevention information to members
- Updates Phone Trees
- Announces and advertises meetings
- Leads meetings
- Coordinates information with law enforcement liaison officer
- Develops agendas and finds guest speakers for meetings
- Delegates duties among members

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## **A WATCH MEMBER**

- Attends meetings
- Works with other members on common goals
- Reports suspicious and criminal activity in area
- Looks after residences when neighbors are away
- Practices safety and security measures at home and work
- Supports the Captain in accomplishing goals
- Recruits new members

