

Welcome to Neighborhood Watch

At this point you're probably asking, "What am I getting myself into?" The first step is the most important one you'll take in respect to your neighborhood. You're not only looking out for your safety and security, but your neighbor's as well. You are on your way to becoming a good neighbor. Now let's get started...

What's Involved

- 1 Get to know your neighbors
- 2 Learn about personal safety
- 3 Improve home security
- 4 Build a sense of community

Benefits of Neighborhood Watch

- ▶ Improved livability
- ▶ A team concept of neighbors working together
- ▶ Knowing your neighbors and looking out for each another
- ▶ Improved home security
- ▶ A partnership with law enforcement
- ▶ Information about available resources and services

Neighborhood Watch Works

The key to success in any Neighborhood Watch program is the participants' willingness to "look out for each other," and the ability for participants to observe and recognize what is suspicious and immediately contact police. Participating neighbors:

- ▶ Share information
- ▶ Train to observe and recognize suspicious activity
- ▶ Cooperate with law enforcement



City of Tigard

POLICE DEPARTMENT | COMMUNITY POLICING

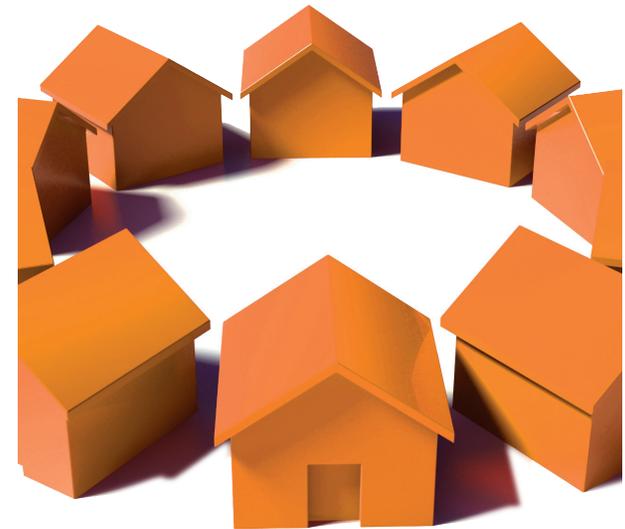
13125 SW Hall Blvd., Tigard, OR 97223

503-718-2561

www.tigard-or.gov/police

GET INVOLVED

Neighborhood Watch



Representing law enforcement from the following partners:

Beaverton | Forest Grove | Hillsboro
Tigard | Tualatin | Washington County

How to Organize a Neighborhood Watch

Step One:

Getting Started

Determine the area you want to organize. Consider the scope of what is considered “your neighborhood.” The larger the area, the greater the protection.

Find neighbors to assist you and serve as a **block captain**. They will form your initial group of participants. Ideally a block captain is needed for each eight to ten households. Determine the best night of the week for a presentation (Fridays and weekends are not recommended).

Step Two:

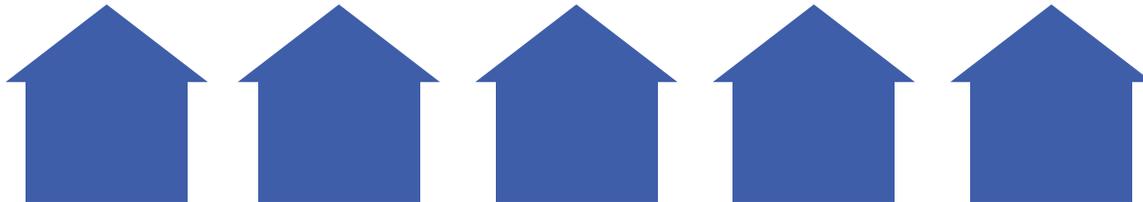
Making Phone Calls

Call your local police department’s crime prevention office. Request a meeting date to bring both law enforcement and interested neighbors together. Arrange for a meeting location close to your neighborhood such as a school, church or other public meeting place. It should have adequate space for all attendees. Evening presentations are ideal.

Step Three:

Invite Your Neighbors

Distribute invitations at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The most effective way is to ask the neighborhood volunteers to deliver them. This is also a good opportunity to encourage neighbors to attend. Work to obtain names and telephone numbers if possible. These can be used to place a reminder call a few days before the planned meeting or to distribute a printed reminder to each neighbor.



Step Four:

Neighborhood Map

Prepare a neighborhood area map showing names, phone numbers and address for each household.

Step Five:

The Presentation

Plan for a two hour presentation. At the presentation you will:

- ▶ Identify concerns and develop an action plan
- ▶ Learn about crime prevention techniques such as home security and personal safety
- ▶ Learn how to report suspicious activity
- ▶ Meet your neighbors and establish a communication network (phone tree)
- ▶ Recruit your additional coordinators and block captains if necessary
- ▶ Order Neighborhood Watch signs

Step Six:

Maintenance

Once your neighborhood has been organized, maintaining interest in Neighborhood Watch is important. Work to keep the energy among neighbors going. Some groups plan neighborhood outings, meetings, summer picnics, block parties and events such as National Night Out. Schedule a speaker to present at each of your neighborhood gatherings.



About Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that teaches citizens how to help themselves by identifying and reporting suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. In addition, it provides citizens with the opportunity to make their neighborhoods safer and improve the quality of life.

Most neighborhood crime prevention groups are organized around a block or a neighborhood and are started with assistance from a law enforcement agency. Volunteers who donate their time and resources are typically at the center of such programs, since many do not have a formal budget or source of funding.

All Neighborhood Watches share one foundational idea: that bringing community members together to reestablish control of their neighborhoods promotes an increased quality of life and reduces the crime rate in that area. In fact, from the earliest attempts to deal with the neighborhood structure as it relates to crime (through the Chicago Area Project of the early 1900s), to modern attempts at neighborhood crime prevention, collective action by residents has proved one of the most effective strategies.

The reason for this effectiveness is rather simple: involving community members in watch programs decreases opportunities for criminals to commit crime rather than attempting to change their behavior or motivation. Today’s Neighborhood Watch Program is an effective means of crime control and neighborhood cohesiveness.