

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH

A Program Sponsored by Vector Security



A Neighborhood Crime Watch program is a great way to bring citizens and law enforcement together to decrease crime and make a community safer.

The program counts on citizens to organize themselves and work with law enforcement to keep their eyes and ears open at all times.

Close-knit communities usually report less break-ins, thefts and overall crimes when a proper neighborhood watch program is in place.



How to Start a NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH



Form a small planning committee of neighbors to discuss the Crime Watch concept, the needs, the level of interest, and possible challenges.

Contact your local police or sheriff's office to gain credibility and to add a good source of training and tips. *These agencies are the major sources of information on local crime patterns and crime prevention education.*

Contact your Vector Security branch.

Gather facts about past crime activities in the area.

Hold an initial meeting to define the purpose of the program, and begin to identify issues that need to be addressed. Invite a Vector Security representative or a law enforcement officer to your meeting.

Publicize your meeting at least one week in advance with door-to-door fliers and follow up with phone calls the day before.

Elect a chairperson to coordinate local activities.

Ask for "Block Captain" volunteers to keep up-to-date information on residents; make special efforts to involve the elderly, working parents, and young people; and relay information to members on their block. Block captains also can serve as liaisons between the neighborhood and police.

Hold regular meetings. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors and their

lifestyles. Having an opportunity to handout packets of information and tips is crucial since crime happens so often. Don't forget events like National Night Out or a potluck dinner that gives neighbors a chance to get together.

Remind Crime Watch members that they are simply alert, observant people who care about the community, not the police.

Sponsor cleanups, encourage residents to beautify the area, and ask them to turn on outdoor lights at night. *Physical conditions like abandoned cars or overgrown vacant lots contribute to crime.*

Celebrate successes! Recognize volunteers' contributions through such events as awards, annual dinners, and parties.

Sponsor meetings that address broader issues such as drug abuse, gangs, self-protection tactics, isolation of the elderly, crime in the schools, bullying, and rape prevention.

Partner with Vector Security to provide neighborhood crime watch signs for the area and work with local municipalities in hanging these signs.

Partner with Vector Security to provide home security for any members interested in additional security measures. Vector Security will provide yard signs and window decals for all customers.

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH

Invitation Letter to Neighbors



Neighbor,

We are having a community meeting to discuss the possibilities of a neighborhood crime watch program.

A neighborhood crime watch is a very effective program that helps reduce many crimes such as burglaries, home invasions, vandalism and even drug dealing. This program can help ensure the safety of you, your loved ones and your neighbors.

I hope that you will join me and our other neighbors at (location) on (date) at (time). Together, we can keep crime out of our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Your Neighbor
(address)
(phone number)

Opening

Introduce Neighbors

Purpose of Program

- Safer neighborhood
- Crime reduction
- Address neighborhood problems
- Get families involved

Crime Watch

- Community Relations Officer
- Crime Statistics
- Crime Trends
- What to look for
- Who do we call
- Robberies and Home Invasions

Home Security

- Vector Security Consultant
- Exterior security
- Interior security
- Fire safety

Programs

- Child safety
- Self defense
- Operation Identification
- National Night Out
- Fire Safety Month
- Neighborhood Clean-ups

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH

Home Security Checklist



An important step in preventing home burglary and other crimes is to make sure that a residence is as secure as possible. Please use this checklist to help determine what steps you could take to reduce vulnerability.

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Are doors metal/solid wood construction? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Do doors have deadbolt lock that are properly installed? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Do doors have a window/peephole? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are sliding glass doors secure from the inside – “charley-bar,” key-operated lock, etc.? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are there exterior lights at each door? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does landscaping conceal doors/windows from the street? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Do all windows have adequate locks? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are there any windows open to the roof or porch? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are garage doors and windows covered? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the garage door kept closed and locked when not in use? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are ladders secured in garage or out of site when not in use? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the house number visible from street? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the home have fire extinguisher? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the home have smoke detectors? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the home have carbon monoxide detectors? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the home have an attached safe for valuables? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the home have an alarm system? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the home have security yard signs/stickers? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Vector Security is not liable for any burglary or break-ins (attempted or successful) to your home. These are simply suggestions. It is up to the homeowner to secure his or her home and belongings.

Home & Valuables Inventory

An inventory is an essential document for cataloging and valuing your treasured belongings. Insurance companies and police will require a detailed inventory in the event of any loss.

Use the inventory form on the next page to document your items of high intrinsic value, such as jewelry, art, furs, antiques, heirlooms, china, and special collections.

File the inventory and supporting documentation in a safe place, such as a safe deposit box at the bank or with someone you trust so that it can be easily obtained in the case of any loss.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____

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Organizational Meeting

Date:

Time:

Location:

