

- A stranger running through private yards or alleyways.
- A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child.
- Abandoned cars.

Don't investigate these problems on your own! Report these incidents to the police. Alert neighbors of such situations.

Developing Citizen Awareness

Periodic meetings of your Neighborhood Watch group should be used to develop programs to heighten citizen awareness of and proper response to suspected or actual criminal activity. Speakers from law enforcement as well as from a wide range of community organizations can address such topics as:

- Recognizing suspicious activity and learning how to report it.
- Organizing victim assistance programs.
- Establishing "safe houses" for children in trouble.
- Developing neighborhood "youth escort services" that can accompany older people and children on errands.
- Organizing a "Crime Stoppers" program that allows individual to offer information on crimes, anonymously.
- Publishing a Neighborhood Watch newsletter with security tips and updates.

**EMERGENCY
POLICE, FIRE & EMS DIAL 911**

CITY OF CLEVELAND
NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE
DISTRICTS

First District
3895 W. 130th Street
216/623-5105

Second District
3841 Fulton Rd.
216-623-5205

Third District
10600 Chester Avenue
216/623-5305

Fourth District
9333 Kinsman Road
216/623-5405

Fifth District
881 E. 152nd Street
216/623-5505

**CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT
2001 Payne Avenue
CLEVELAND, OH 44114
216/623-5080**



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Frank G. Jackson

**"HOW CAN I
HELP GET A
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
STARTED?"**



**Cleveland Division of Police
Bureau of Community Policing
2001 Payne Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114
216/623-5080**

Anyone can be a victim of burglary or other crimes. Despite our best precautions, we often feel alone and vulnerable to crime. But there is a vital protection tool available – something residents in a community can do be banding together, in connection with local law enforcement agencies, to prevent crime before it happens.

The Neighborhood Watch Program

Here's a community-based program that's been *proven* to deter crime. Thousands of these programs have been developed around the country, breaking down the isolation of neighbors as they work together and with law enforcement officers. It is a remarkably successful anti-crime effort, as participants work together as a true community-neighbor looking out for neighbor.

- Any community resident can take part-young and old, single and married, renter and home owner.
- A few concerned residents, a community organization, or a law enforcement agency can spearhead the effort to organize a Neighborhood Watch.
- Members learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report activities that raise suspicions to the police.
- You can form a Neighborhood Watch group around any geographical unit: a block, apartment building, park, business area, housing complex or office.
- Watch groups are *not* vigilantes. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crimes and helping neighbors.

How to get Started

Neighborhood Watch helps build pride and serves as a springboard for efforts that address other community concerns, such as recreation for youth, child care, and affordable housing.

Many of your neighbors may wish that a program like Neighborhood Watch already existed in their area, but don't know how to start one. They may not realize just how simple it is.

If you don't start a Neighborhood Watch program in your area, perhaps no one will. But once you take these first simple steps, you may be amazed at how easy it is to organize the program and what a difference it will make.

- Form a small planning committee. Decide on a date and place for an initial neighborhood meeting.
- Contact the Bureau of Community Policing 623-5080. Request that a crime prevention officer come to your meeting to discuss your community's problems and needs.

Getting Organized

Contact as many of your neighbors as possible and ask them if they would be willing to meet to organize a Neighborhood Watch group in your area.

Once your program is beginning to get under way, there are several concrete steps you should take to make the organization solid and successful:

- Contact the Bureau of Community Policing for help in training members in home security and reporting skills, and for information on local crime patterns.
- Select a Neighborhood Watch coordinator and block captains who are responsible for organizing meetings and relaying information to members.
- Recruit new members, keep up-to-date on new residents, and make special efforts to involve the elderly, working parents, and young people.
- Work with local law enforcement to put up highly visible Neighborhood Watch signs and decals. These alert criminals that community members all watch and report their activities – often, this is enough to discourage them!
- Work with police to organize citizen patrols, on foot or in vehicles, to monitor certain areas at assigned times and shifts. Lost children, stranded motorists, stray dogs, damaged street signs or traffic signals and auto accidents are often discovered by citizen patrols.

Neighbors Look for....

- Screaming or shouting for help.
- Someone looking into windows of houses or parked cars.
- Unusual noises.
- Property being taken out of houses or buildings where no one is at home, or the business is closed.
- Cars, vans, or trucks moving slowly with no lights or apparent destination.
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle.